CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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EXIT POLL

Axis My India		Today's Chanakya		Matrize		P-Marq		Peoples Pulse		Bhaskar		People's Insight	
NDA	121-141	NDA	148-172	NDA	147-167	NDA	142-162	NDA	133-159	NDA	145-160	NDA	133-148
MGB	98-118	MGB	65-89	MGB	70-90	MGB	80-98	MGB	75-101	MGB	73-91	MGB	87-102
JSP	0-2	JSP	0	JSP	0-2	JSP	1-4	JSP	0-5	JSP	0	JSP	0-2
Others	1-5	Others	3-9	Others	2-5	Others	0-3	Others	2-8	Others	5-10	Others	3-6

"These surveys are brought out merely to create a psychological impact, to put pressure on the officials i nvolved in the election process.
—Tejashwi Yadav, RJD leader

"The way people cheer for us, I feel that the people of Bihar are with the NDA, with the BJP. We will go much beyond 160 seats.
—Amit Shah, BJP leader

Who will win the Battle of Bihar?

NDA's return or Mahagathbandhan twist? The polls will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the state's longest-serving CM, will get a record fifth term or the state will go for a new government

PATNA

Finally, the wait is over! With less than a few hours to go for the counting of votes polled in the recent assembly elections, all eyes are on Bihar.

It will decide whether JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar, the state's longest-serving chief minister, will get a record fifth term or the state will go for a new government.

According to the official website of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the counting of votes and the announcement of trends for the elections 2025 will commence at 8 am on November 14, with the final results expected to be declared by the evening.

Will the exit polls prove right?

The exit polls have offered a clear indication of the likely outcome, with most survey agencies predicting a decisive victory for the NDA alliance, pointing to a comfortable majority for the ruling coalition.

The BJP-led NDA is likely to retain power in Bihar, as per Axis My India and Today's Chanakya prediction. Axis My India predicted NDA to win by a narrow margin with 121-141 seats, MGB 98-118, JSP 0-2 seats while Today's Chanakya projected BJP a major victory with 160 seats, RJD 77 and others six seats. On Tuesday, nine exit polls also projected the NDA to win 147 seats in the 243-member Assembly.

Is the voter turnout an indicator?

The voter turnout in the second and final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, was recorded to be 66.91%, officially the highest-ever voter turnout in the state since 1951, as per the ECI.

Will 'Nari Shakti' work for Modi & team?

Of the overall turnout of a record 66.91%, the voting percentage of women was 71.6% in the second phase, which is 8.8% points more than the 62.8% turnout of men and the largest ever gap recorded in the state. In terms of absolute numbers too, women out-voted men, a trend considered to be a first for Bihar.

Tejashwi a threat to Nitish?

As Bihar waits the election results, the final tally may yet favour the NDA as predicted by most exit polls.

However, regardless of whether the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) clinches the victory, 36-year-old Tejashwi Yadav has secured a seismic win. He has rebranded the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), cemented his leadership, and established himself as the most formidable challenger to Nitish Kumar's long-standing dominance in the state.

Will NDA romp home?

- Poll Diary projected the highest number of seats for the NDA, with a range of 184-209, while Axis My India forecast the lowest range of 121-141 seats.
- For Mahagathbandhan, the highest range of projection, 98-118 seats, was given by Axis My India, and the lowest range was forecast by Poll Diary: 32-49 seats.

Monitor drone cameras to avoid human-wildlife conflict: CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who gave instructions to increase the monitoring of drone cameras and formulate scientific methods in consultation with experts including Krupakara Senani-Sanjay Gubbi to avoid human-wildlife conflict, assured that all assistance from the government, including necessary personnel and funds, will be provided.

He instructed that steps be taken to immediately capture 15-20 tigers roaming outside the forest area due to old age, injuries caused by attacks by new young tigers and other reasons with the help of drone cameras.

Eight Kumki elephants are already being used for the operation and the Chief Minister instructed that the number of personnel and squads be used in the conflict-affected forest area as per the requirement. After a comprehensive discussion on this, the Chief Minister said, the following eight-point programme is in place to control human-wildlife conflict.

- Identify areas where human-wildlife conflict exists and list the nature of the conflict.
- Human resource management: Assignment of officers and staff based on the intensity of the conflict.
- Patrol: Increase patrols in forest edge villages and maintain registers.
- Senior officers should regularly stay in forest edge villages, especially those with human-wildlife conflict.
- Involve local people, identify enthusiastic youth and elders of forest edge villages and consider them as forest friends and use their services during patrols, wildlife, capture, and operations.
- Make vehicles and forest staff available 24/7 at strategic places where wildlife roam for wildlife conservation operations.

MOCK SHOW

Organize a mock show to provide information on wildlife capture and what to do when a wildlife attack occurs. Formation of coordination/collaboration committee at district level Formation of sub-committee at taluk level and seeking assistance from district administration and police department* This committee will meet regularly and work towards controlling human-wildlife conflict.

QUICK READ

BNP suspends non-AC bus safari

BENGALURU

In view of a woman visitor being injured after a leopard climb onto a safari bus, the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) has suspended non-AC Bus Safari indefinitely till further communication, according to a release by BNP. It added, "We regret to inform you of an unfortunate incident that occurred today around 1 pm during the Non-AC Bus Safari at the Leopard Safari. Vahitha Banu (56) sustained a minor injury to her hand when a leopard, while attempting to climb onto the bus, accidentally clawed her. She was immediately taken to the nearest hospital for first aid and was examined for any further injuries and is fine with a minor injury." All the safari drivers were warned about the previous incident of leopard attack and were instructed to take precautionary safety measures inside the safari.

8 killed, several injured as truck rams vehicles in Pune

PUNE

At least eight people were killed and several others injured when a container truck lost control and rammed into several vehicles near Navale bridge on the Pune-Bengaluru highway on Thursday evening.

Following the collision a few vehicles went up in flames, reports said.

As per reports, a car got crushed between two large container trucks that caught fire on a bridge along the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway on the outskirts of Pune city.

Eight to ten others were injured in the accident on the Navale Bridge in the evening, they said.

In videos that surfaced after the accident, the car is seen crushed between the two heavy vehicles which are engulfed in huge fire. "We are probing how the accident happened. Currently, our priority is to ensure that the injured people receive immediate treatment in the hospital," stated the officer.

According to top intelligence sources, the disclosure was made by Dr Shaheen Saeed, her brother Dr Parvez, and Dr Muzzamil, during their interrogation

Probe reveals plan for 6 blasts on Dec 6

LUCKNOW

The probe agencies investigating the Delhi blast and its suspected roots in UP have uncovered a plot in which the Jaish-e-Mohammad-linked terror module, allegedly comprising Dr Shaheen Ansari, Dr Parvez Ansari and others, was planning coordinated explosions in six cities of the country on the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992 on December 6.

According to intelligence agency sources, the disclosure was made by Dr Shaheen, her brother Dr Parvez, and Dr Muzzamil, during their interrogation. The three are among those arrested in connection with the November 10 Red Fort blast. They were allegedly raising funds and coordinating logistics for the planned attacks.

Dr Shaheen divulged crucial inputs about the group's financial network and operational hierarchy during her grilling, said sources. Other arrested suspects — Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, Arif Nisar Dar, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, Maqsood Ahmad, and Zameer Ahmad Ahanger — are also being interrogated to extract more information about the module's operations.

Preliminary findings pointed towards a five-phase plan drawn by the group. The first phase involved the formation of the module linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind. The second focused on procuring raw materials and ammunition from Nuh and Gurugram (Haryana) to assemble improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The third covered manufacturing IEDs and conducting reconnaissance of potential targets. The fourth phase involved the distribution of assembled bombs among module members and the fifth phase was to execute synchronised explosions across all the locations.

Officials said the initial plan was to strike in August 2025, but due to logistical delays, the date was shifted to December 6. Investigators are also examining whether the module planned a parallel operation in Ayodhya on November 25 during the religious flag (dharam dhwaj) hoisting.

Not every resident of J&K is a terrorist: Omar

SRINAGAR

As probe into Delhi car blast intensifies and preliminary investigation points towards terror networks in J&K, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has asserted, "Not every resident of Jammu and Kashmir is a terrorist or affiliated with terrorists."

"No amount of condemnation for this incident is enough. The killing of innocent people in this manner is unacceptable and no religion allows such acts. The investigation is underway, and all culprits must be punished," Omar told reporters in Jammu. The CM said that not every resident of the state is a terrorist and that there are only a few "who have always tried to disrupt peace and brotherhood here."

DELHI CHOKES UNDER TOXIC

'Go virtual, even masks not enough'

Delhi AQI remains 'severe'

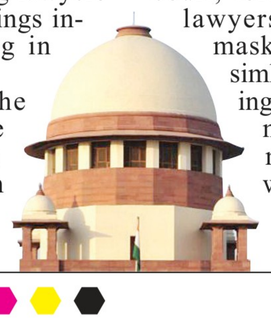
According to the Commission for Air Quality Management, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 425 at 9 am on Tuesday, placing it in the 'severe'. Following this, the CAQM implemented a nine-point action plan under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan across the National Capital Region (NCR).

NEW DELHI

As toxic air continue to choke the National capital, Delhi, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) remains in the 'severe' category', the Supreme Court on Thursday sounded an alarm, describing the pollution levels in Delhi as "very serious" and asking lawyers to use virtual hearings instead of appearing in person.

Warning that the toxic air could cause permanent health damage, the Bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar, said, "Situation is very very serious! Why are you all appearing here? We have a virtual hearing facility. Please avail it. This pollution will cause permanent damage."

In reply, Rajya Sabha member and Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who was present in court, told the bench that lawyers were wearing masks. Justice Narasimha reponded, saying "Even masks are not enough. It will not suffice. We will discuss with the Chief Justice as well."



'22 professionals part of white-collar Jaish terror'

New Delhi: Investigative agencies have identified a total of 22 doctors, engineers and educated professionals who are part of the white-collar Jaish-e-Mohammed terror module that carried out the Delhi blast in which 13 people were killed. The agencies said they were planning multiple blasts, with materials already procured, reconnaissance completed and devices ready.

B'luru DC begins valuation of four 'enemy properties'

Bengaluru: The deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district, who has been designated as the Deputy Custodian of Enemy Property by the central government, is evaluating the value of four enemy properties identified in Bengaluru. These properties are located on Raj Bhavan Road, Victoria Road, Kalasipalya and Grant Road, as per souces.

2 more docs picked up in Uttar Pradesh

New Delhi: Intensifying its crackdown on a suspected terror network across Uttar Pradesh, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of the Uttar Pradesh state police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) detained Dr Mohammad Arif, 32, in Kanpur. Dr Arif is a senior resident doctor in the cardiology department of the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College.

Include Kho-Kho in list of games to secure Govt jobs: Chaitra

MYSURU

B.Chaitra, a national kho- kho player requested the state government to include the kho-kho in the list of sports during the selection of the achievers in national and international events under three per cent reservation for the government jobs.

"I don't know where to appeal. The government has included all the sports for the selection of the achievers under three per cent reservation in government jobs except the kho-kho. The inclusion of this name in the list will be a great help to many kho-kho players like her who have made name in national level ", she said while speaking at the inauguration of Mysore District Police Sports meet here on Wednesday.

Chaitra lauded the service of the police personnel and said while the soldiers guard the country borders, the police take care of internal security. Both of them work selflessly for the protection of people. Many times they risk their lives during work and save people's lives.

Since the beginning, she said, she has had a lot of respect for the police who play a vital role in society. She has grown and reached the pinnacle in kho-kho by seeing the duty of the police department. During a mega sports event held recently, the police ensured a tight protection due to which the meet passed off peacefully without any problems. This shows their concern for the common people. If women can roam freely on the streets it's because of the police department.

Chaitra said the hard work and dedication of her coach helped her to reach the national level kho-kho competition. Though, he did not come from the sports background as he had been reaching maths subject but still he took interest to groom her the national kho-kho players. Even her coach deserved to be given due recognition.

Superintendent of police Vishnuvardhan, ASP Ngesh, C Mullick and Savita Vagar and others were present.

Earlier, a ceremonial welcome was accorded to the national kho-kho players by the police personnel by thunderous applause. She also witnessed the marchpast and took the salute.

Revise fare, stop using EV as taxis: Autorickshaw drivers Assn

MYSURU

Members of two major autorickshaw drivers and owners urged the district administration not to issue fresh autorickshaw permits, revise fare and check EV autorickshaws in the city.

At a meeting of transport department chaired by Deputy Commissioner K.Lakshmikanth Reddy here on Wednesday, the Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta, Mysuru District Unit submitted a memorandum to the DC seeking the immediate rate revision due to steep hike in the prices of petrol, spare parts and groceries plus house rent. The badge must be made mandatory will driving the rickshaw and purchasing a new vehicle, and the periphery of the city must be extended to 25 km and there is a need to update the new layouts outside the Ring Road in pre-paid auto system. The vehicles with the permits from other districts and states must not be allowed to ply in the city. The whiteboard and EV vehicles must not be used as taxis. Just like online Ola and Uber taxies, even 'one city, one fair' must be extended to all the autorickshaws.

Members of Samyukta Karnataka Autorickshaw Drivers and Owners Welfare Association wanted the district administration to put on hold the issue of new permits in view of excess number of autorickshaws operating in the city of Mysuru. The MCC must be directed to widen roads in tune with the increasing number of vehicles and the population. The existing autorickshaw stands near the bus stops must be shifted elsewhere in view of the safety of drivers. The autorickshaw drivers must be allotted houses/sites and distribute a monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 per month.

Replace Devaraja Urs Statue immediately: Raghu Kautilya

MYSURU

R Raghu (Kautilya), President of State BJP Backward Classes Morcha has urged the state government to replace the recently inaugurated statue of former Chief Minister D.Devaraja Urs in front of the new deputy commissioner's office as the statue does not look like Urs.

He said the late Chief Minister Devaraj Urs served the state with great distinction for eight years. He was the one who made and implemented the historic decision to rename the Mysore State as Karnataka. Standing as a strong voice for the backward and oppressed communities, he distributed social justice in true spirit of the Constitution, earning recognition across India as a model Chief Minister and as the Pioneer of Social Justice.

The schemes and reforms he introduced during his tenure remain permanent milestones in the history of Karnataka. The "Land to the Tiller" Act (Ulidavane Neladodeya Kayde) was hailed as a revolutionary reform in the history of India. Through several such transformative measures, Devaraj Urs has secured a lasting place in the history of Karnataka.

However, it is deeply regrettable that, in his native district of Mysuru, there was

no memorial to commemorate him. Considering this, the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa responded to the request of Devaraj Urs's admirers and issued appropriate orders to install his statue in front of the new Deputy Commissioner's Office, releasing a necessary grant of ₹92 lakhs for the same.

Due to changing political circumstances, the project proceeded slowly. Nevertheless, following public pressure, the work of installing the statue finally began and the installation was completed. However, due to the delay in unveiling the statue by the district administration, members of the backward communities and admirers of Devaraj Urs protested, resulting in the statue being unveiled by the incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on November 3.

It is unfortunate that the unveiling ceremony was held in a very simple and low-key manner without proper publicity, making it appear like a mere formality. Be that as it may, soon after the event, there has been widespread criticism that the statue does not resemble Devaraj Urs. It is said that around ₹1.20 crore has been spent on the installation of the statue, and the contract for its construction was awarded without following transparent procedures. Hence, there is a clear need for appropriate action in this regard. It has become evident that, due to the lack of timely supervision and proper instructions from the responsible officials and heads of government during the statue's construction, the statue has lost the resemblance to Devaraj Urs.

Therefore, to ensure that no permanent disrespect is caused to Urs, they strongly urge that a new statue closely resembling him be constructed and reinstalled at the same location at the earliest. On behalf of the innumerable admirers of Devaraj Urs, they demand the government to take the necessary steps in this regard.

Use of AI models in clinical practice is on the cards: Sunita Verma

MYSURU

The two-day International symposium on Frontiers of Research on Speech and Music (FRSM – 2025) began at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru.

Sunita Verma, Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator for the R&D Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi joined online and inaugurated the Conference.

In her inaugural address online, she elaborated the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi to develop AI driven technologies for masses. The group is committed to improve healthcare access with the technology that is affordable, sustainable, indigenous and inclusive. The major challenge in this direction is the cost effectiveness. The latest initiatives in healthcare includes development of AI platforms for healthcare professionals to enable them to solve and use AI models in their clinical practice, with the involvement of startups and setting up translational hubs in key hospitals.

Sunita appealed to the delegates of FRSM 2025 to deliberate and shortlist a few areas where technology development is needed, so that it can be taken up at the national level. Her group in MeitY is involved in enabling the ecosystem of research through right public policy push, supporting a range of research activities from blue sky to applied i.e. product driven, translating outcomes into commercially viable products.

Prof. S. R. M. Prasanna, Director, IIIT Dharwad who was the Guest of Honor, highlighted the need to utilize the AI based tools for diagnosis, assessment and treatment of persons with speech and hearing problems. The expertise of AIISH faculty and clinicians can be utilized by the engineers/ technologists while developing new AI based tools. The collaborative work of his team from IIT, Guwahati with the experts in AIISH Mysuru had resulted in developing a couple of automated tools for assessment of severity of speech disorders.

. Dr. Shankha Sanyal, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and program chair, FRSM 2025; Prof. Ajish K. Abraham, Convener of the symposium graced the occasion. Prof. P. Manjula, Director I/c AIISH, presided.

Death of security guard: AITUC activists stage dharna

MYSURU

The members of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) staged a dharna in front of the administrative building of the University of Mysore following the death of a security guard due to reported cardiac arrest.

According to the AITUC leaders, the security guard collapsed and died while on duty near the Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru. The deceased has been identified as Sanjay. It is said that Sanjay, who had been unwell, reported to work despite his illness and collapsed, leading to his death.

A Bengaluru-based agency, which has recently taken over the security contract at the university from the previous contractor, has reportedly been making the security staff work for the past ten days without giving them their weekly day off. In this regard, the AITUC had demanded that employees who work for six days a week be given one day off as a weekly holiday. However, the contractor allegedly spoke arrogantly, claiming that security personnel were not entitled to leave and must work at all times.

A protest was held on Tuesday over this issue. Following the protest, the agency issued an official letter warning that workers who participated in the agitation would be dismissed and instructed them not to report for duty.

Sanjay, who was suffering from poor health, had requested a day off. But the supervisor refused, allegedly saying that he must not come for the duty if he takes leave. Out of compulsion, Sanjay went to his workplace despite his condition. While on duty at the Oriental Research Institute, he collapsed on the stairs and died.

Close on the heels of this incident, the AITUC and PUCL leaders held a dharna and demanded action against the contractor for exploiting the poor security guards by not providing them the basic facilities. Their PF share had been reduced to 50 per cent by the agency since the burden was on the agency to pay in ln lumpsum. The police must register a case against the agency and the supervisor for making the guards to work without giving them a single day holiday after working for one week.

PAY THE POWER BILL DUES BEFORE DEADLINE TO AVOID DISCONNECTION: CESC

MYSURU

Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has initiated a special drive to collect electricity bill arrears from consumers who have failed to pay their dues even after the deadline.

It has been decided to conduct an arrears collection campaign for those consumers who have not paid their electricity bills within the stipulated period. Some consumers have failed to make payments despite repeated reminders, and CESC has now decided to recover the pending dues.

According to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) conditions of supply and distribution licensees 2004, Annex-04, Rule 4.18(j), "If a consumer fails to pay the bill within the prescribed date, the licensee shall have the right to disconnect the electricity meter/supply after giving a clear 15-day notice to such consumer for non-payment of dues."

Furthermore, Rule 2.11 states that "a period of 15 days from the date of bill delivery shall be treated as the final due date for payment."

It is also mentioned in Instruction No. 1 printed on the reverse side of the consumer's monthly bill that "If the bill is not paid within the stipulated time, this bill itself shall be treated as a 15-day notice for disconnection of power supply, and no further grace period shall apply to previous arrears."

In this background, a revenue recovery campaign will be conducted on November 14, 2025.

All categories of electricity consumers, including government departments, are requested to clear their pending electricity dues by November 14, 2025, through CESC's authorized cash counters or online payment options.

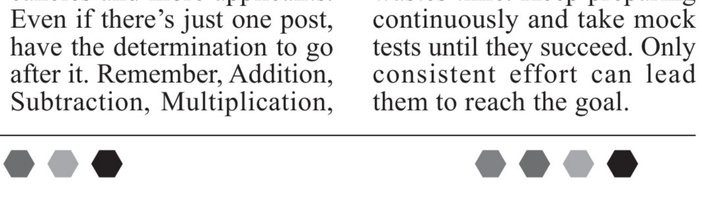
Failure to pay electricity dues by the specified date will result in disconnection of power supply to the concerned meters without any further notice after November 14, 2025. Therefore, consumers are urged to promptly pay their outstanding electricity bills and avoid inconvenience, stated the Managing Director of CESC in the press release.

For meters/installations with unpaid electricity bills (except for essential services), power supply will be disconnected as per regulations. Hence, consumers with outstanding dues are requested to clear their bills immediately and cooperate with the department.

—K. M. Munigopal Raju,
Managing Director, CESC

Bank jobs are free from corruption and transparent: SBI Chief Manager

MYSURU



At present, employment in the banking sector has earned a nationwide reputation for being corruption-free and transparent in its recruitment process, said Kalyan Kumar, Chief Manager of the State Bank of India.

Speaking after inaugurating a 50-day training camp organized by the Competitive Examination Training Centre of Karnataka State Open University for candidates preparing for recruitment exams to the banking and central government sectors here on Wednesday, he said while recruitment for government jobs often gets entangled in controversies and takes three to four years to complete, the entire recruitment process in the banking sector — from application to selection — is completed within just six months. Both banking and central government jobs offer excellent salaries and attractive allowances, enabling employees to lead a respectable and comfortable life.

Kalyan Kumar said that in most banks across Karnataka, a large number of employees are from North India. This is mainly because many Kannadigas lack awareness about these opportunities and also hold the misconception that bank exams are too difficult. Recently, the State government has successfully persuaded the Centre to allow candidates to write banking and central government exams in Kannada, which is a welcome move. Those who have studied for 15 years as students can completely change their lives if they dedicate just six months to focused and consistent study. It not only helps shape your own life but also supports your family and dependents.

The chief manager said that only when parents expose their children to challenges and hardships will their true development occur. But today's parents fail to do so, which is why many youngsters are going astray. " Don't get disheartened by fewer vacancies and more applicants. Even if there's just one post, have the determination to go after it. Remember, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division — that's all the essence of studying for banking and central government exams," he added.

State Archaeology, Museums, and Heritage Commissioner A. Devaraju said that by joining the KSOU's competitive training institute, they already achieved half the success. Thousands of students have benefited from this program and built successful careers.

The path of preparation may be difficult, but they must stay focused on their goal. Don't compare their journey with others. Out of one lakh candidates who appear for the exam, only a hundred may get selected — because their effort is relentless. Revise the syllabus again and again. Manage time well. Even thinking for long inside the exam hall wastes time. Keep preparing continuously and take mock tests until they succeed. Only consistent effort can lead them to reach the goal.

Tigers on the Prowl Again: Rising Cattle Killings Leave Farmers in Fear

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The tiger menace, which had subsided for a while after claiming the lives of three farmers in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district, has resurfaced, this time targeting cattle in the rural belts of Sargur, Hunsur, and H.D. Kote taluks.

The growing number of cattle killings has sent a wave of anxiety among farmers who depend on their livestock for livelihood.

Just four days ago, a tiger pounced on a cow grazing in an open field near Sargur and devoured it. Two days later, two more cows were mauled to death in H.D. Kote taluk. As if that were not enough, an oxen fell prey to a big cat in the same area, intensifying fear among villagers living close to the forest fringes.

On Tuesday, the tiger struck again — this time killing and feasting on a wild boar in Hunsur taluk. Forest officers consider this a natural occurrence, as wild boars are among the most common prey for big cats and leopards in the dense jungles of Mysuru district. However, the repeated targeting of domestic cattle is what has become a major cause for concern.

Farmers say that cows are not just animals to them, but a primary source of income. "When a cow is killed, it is like losing a part of our family and livelihood," said Sannappa, a farmer from H.D. Kote. The government compensation is hardly 25 percent of the cow's actual value. How can we survive with such little help? he questioned, demanding that the forest department take stronger measures to ensure the safety of villagers and cattle.

A senior forest officer, however, defended the department's efforts, explaining that

villagers have been cautioned not to send their cattle deep into forest areas for grazing. Cows and oxen become easy prey when they stray too far into the forest. Once a tiger develops a taste for domestic animals, it tends to return again and again. That's why they have urged farmers to arrange fodder within cattle sheds to keep their animals safe, the officer explained.

But farmers like Sannappa disagree. We don't take cattle into the forests. The tigers are coming out into our fields. That's the real problem, he said. His statement reflects the growing unease among rural families who now fear that the man-animal boundary is blurring dangerously.

Even as forest teams intensify patrolling and install camera traps to track tiger movements, the recurring cattle kills remain a grim reminder of the fragile coexistence between humans and wildlife in the forest fringes of Mysuru.

For the forest department, one small consolation remains — the tigers have not attacked humans again."Cattle losses can be compensated, but human life cannot," said an officer.

For farmers, however, each attack means a fresh financial blow and renewed fear of what may come next.

MP Yaduveer Unveils Poster for Badminton Tournament

MYSURU

As part of the Sansad Sports Festival, a "MP's Cup Badminton Tournament" will be organised under the leadership of Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, and the poster of the tournament has been released.

The tournament will be held at Sports Park located in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bogadi 2nd Stage, Mysuru. MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has appealed to all sports enthusiasts of Mysuru to make use of this wonderful opportunity.

Matches will be conducted in Junior and Senior categories. For boys and girls, competitions will be held in three categories, while for seniors, separate categories have been arranged for men and women.

Registrations for the matches scheduled to be held on November 15 will remain open till 4 pm on November 14.

The tournament is being organised with sponsorship from School 10x, APN Properties, SWISS, and Rajendra Hardware & Plywood Sport. For more information, contact 99166 73300.

Categories of Competition

Juniors (Entry fee ₹300):
- Singles for boys and girls under 11 years
- Singles for boys and girls under 13 years
- Singles for boys and girls under 15 years

Seniors (Entry fee ₹600):
- Men's Doubles
- Men's Doubles 35+
- Men's Doubles 80+
- Mixed Doubles
- Women's Jumbled 60+

Farmers Warn of Direct Action if Resorts in Kapila Backwaters Not Cleared by Nov 30

MYSURU

Angry farmers attached to the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene staged a protest in front of Aranya Bhavan in Mysuru on Thursday, demanding that the state government immediately vacate all resorts and homestays situated in the backwaters of the Kapila River, which they blame for the increasing incidents of wild animals straying into human habitats and killing innocent farmers.

Raising slogans against the government and the forest department, the protesters warned that they have given the government 15 days' deadline to act. "If the government fails to demolish those illegal structures by November 30, thousands of farmers will storm into the forests and destroy them with their own hands," the leaders declared amid loud cheers from the agitating crowd.

"Resorts Are for the Rich, Deaths Are for the Poor"

Led by state leaders of the Raitha Sangha, the farmers marched from the city outskirts and reached Aranya Bhavan, where all top forest officials are housed. However, the police prevented them from entering the building, leading to a dharna in front of the main gate. Farmers squatted on the road and continued their protest, raising slogans like "Aranyakke nyaya kodi!" (Give justice to the forests!) and "Raitharanu rakshisi, resortgalannu kelasi!" (Save farmers, demolish resorts!).

"The government talks of wildlife protection, but in reality, it protects only the rich resort owners," said Ramesh Gowda, a farmer leader. "Because of their parties and picnics, wild animals have lost

peace. Now they come into our villages, attack us, and the government pays a mere Rs 10 lakh compensation for a human life. Is that justice?" he asked.

> Instead of dying every day from animal attacks, we'll die one day fighting for our rights.
> —Ramesh Gowda, Farmer leader

> The government protects resorts, not farmers. We'll demolish what they failed to stop.
> —Lakshman, Hasiru Sene activist

Illegal Construction under Government's Nose

The protesters alleged that the government, under the guise of promoting wildlife tourism, has allowed the mushrooming of resorts and homestays in the ecologically sensitive backwater zones of Kapila River. "Most of these concrete structures have come up in violation of forest and revenue laws," charged Hasiru Sene district leader Lakshman, adding that "many of these resorts are owned by politicians, top bureaucrats, and their relatives who have built them without any fear of law."

They also accused the revenue authorities of granting permission for private resort owners to use forest roads, while local villagers are often stopped from entering the same routes.

"The system is corrupt from top to bottom. Instead of dying every day from animal attacks, we are ready to die once for all," shouted one protester holding a placard reading, "Save farmers, not resorts."

The protesters warned that if their demands were ignored, they would enter the forest areas, demolish private resorts, and even target government-run Jungle Lodges and Resorts for closure. "If the government doesn't act, we will take the law into our own hands.

We are ready to go to jail," declared Raitha Sangha leader Basavaraj. Senior forest officials, who received the memorandum, appealed for calm and promised to forward the demands to the state government. "We understand the concern of the farmers. The department will look into the matter and submit a report to the government," said a forest officer. However, the farmers dispersed after warning that this was only a "symbolic protest." "If no action is taken by November 30, the real battle will begin inside the forest," they warned before leaving the spot.

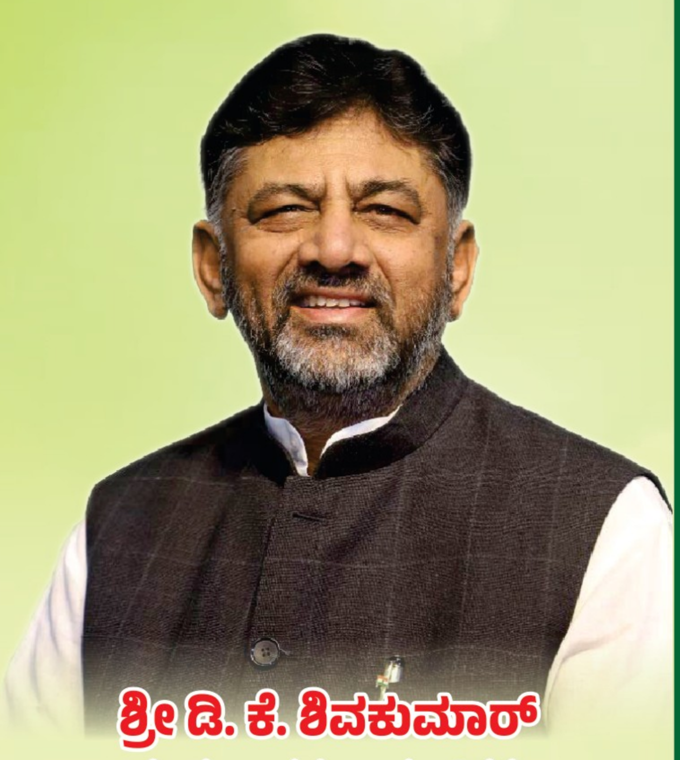
International Year of Cooperatives 2025
Cooperatives Build a Better World

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ.,
ರೇಸ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001.

72 ನೇ ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಪ್ತಾಹ-2025
ಹಾಗೂ
ಸಹಕಾರ ರತ್ನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14-11-2025, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ | ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ವಿಹಾರ, ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ. 4 , ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ



ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಪ್ತಾಹ ಧ್ಯೇಯ:
"ಆತ್ಮನಿರ್ಭರ ಭಾರತ ಸಾಧನೆಗೆ ವಾಹಕಗಳಾಗಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು"

ದಿನದ ವಿಷಯ:
ಕಾರ್ಯದಕ್ಷತೆ, ಉತ್ತರದಾಯಿತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಡಿಜಿಟಲೀಕರಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವುದು.

ಶುಭ ಕೋರುವವರು: ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರುಗಳು

ಸಹಕಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಗುರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳು - 2025

- ಕೃಷಿ ಸಾಲ: 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 37 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ರೂ.28,000 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 2025 ರ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 14.94 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ರೂ.13973.09 ಕೋಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಬೆಳೆ ಸಾಲ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ 1591.73 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಆಯವ್ಯಯ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 5.40 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ರೂ.397.93 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಎರಡನೇ ಕಂತಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ 397.93 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ: 87,619 ಸ್ತ್ರೀಶಕ್ತಿ/ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್-2025 ರಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 6958 ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಗೆ ರೂ.342.37 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪುಗಳ ಸಾಲದ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 108.26 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಆಯವ್ಯಯ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ.
- ಈ ಲ್ಯಾಂಪ್ಸ್ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರೂ.1 ಕೋಟಿ ಆಯವ್ಯಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 46 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಲ್ಯಾಂಪ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಯಶಸ್ವಿನಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 46 ಲಕ್ಷ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 57,500 ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಯಶಸ್ವಿನಿ ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದು ಇದರ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.109 ಕೋಟಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
- 2017-18 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ರೂ.50,000 ಗಳ ಸಾಲಮನ್ನಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಇದ್ದ, ರೂ.131.26 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:27-03-2024 ರಂದು ಡಿಸಿಸಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಡಿಸಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಿಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕುಗಳ ಮಧ್ಯಮಾವಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ ಸುಸ್ತಿ ಸಾಲಗಳ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 2024 ರ ವರೆಗೆ 36,146 ರೈತರಿಂದ ರೂ.287.98 ಕೋಟಿ ವಸೂಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರೂ.239.26 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ದೊರೆತಂತಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಾಲ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರು ನಬಾರ್ಡ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪುನರ್ಧನ ಪಡೆಯಲು ರೂ. 2000 ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಖಾತರಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-06-2025 ರಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಕಾರ್ಯಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳವು ಕಳೆದ 100 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಸಹಕಾರ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಚಾರ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ಮಾದರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯಮಟ್ಟದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿ, 50000 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ-ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 8 ಸಹಕಾರ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆಗ್ಯೂಲರ್ ಮತ್ತು ದೂರಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 3000 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ಇನ್ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸರ್ಟಿಫಿಕೇಟ್ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಹಕಾರ ವಾರಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ 15 ಸಾವಿರ ಚಂದಾದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿವಾರ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹಕಾರ ರತ್ನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಸಹಕಾರ ಧ್ವಜಾರೋಹಣ
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಹಾಗೂ ಭಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಸಹಕಾರ ಪಿತಾಮಹರ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪುಷ್ಪಾರ್ಚನೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಎನ್. ರಾಜಣ್ಣ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್

ಸಹಕಾರ ವಾರಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಸಂಚಿಕೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಸತಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸನ್ಮಾನ
ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಷಡಕ್ಷರಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ.ಟಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ.,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ವಸತಿ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ.,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ.,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ.,
ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಗಳು, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ-ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು
ಹಾಗೂ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿಗಳು

QUICK READ

BDA allots new sites to Arkavathy allottees

Bengaluru
The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has finally allotted alternate sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) to 784 allottees of Arkavathy Layout, who have been waiting for possession for nearly two decades. The original lands were denotified under the 2014 Re-Do scheme, leaving many allottees in long legal battles while paying property taxes for sites they never received, 755 allottees and 29 Surabhi Seva Sangha revenue owners were assigned new plots through a computerized draw by BDA Chairman N.A. Haris. Some allottees expressed frustration, saying they prefer plots closer to the original layout despite additional fees for the NPKL sites.

E-KYC now mandatory to avail MGNREGA job cards

Bengaluru
Bengaluru Rural District has made e-KYC verification compulsory for all MGNREGA job card holders to ensure transparency and prevent misuse of funds. Dr. K.N. Anuradha, CEO of the Zilla Panchayat, said all families across 101 Gram Panchayats must complete the process. Currently, 1.2 lakh families are registered, with 53,000 active job cards, and 86% have completed e-KYC. Linking job cards to Aadhaar will ensure only active workers' attendance is recorded and wages are directly credited to bank accounts. Workers without e-KYC will soon be unable to mark attendance. Assistance is available at Gram Panchayats or via the Panchamitra helpline.

Karnataka mandates local CSR spending for schools

Bengaluru
Karnataka plans a new corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy requiring companies to spend CSR funds within the state, focusing on public school development. School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said the proposal will go to the cabinet soon. The state is also upgrading 100 Urdu schools into bilingual institutions and aims to establish 6,000 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) across gram panchayats. Around 18,000 teachers will be recruited before the next academic year, with the Teacher Eligibility Test scheduled for December 7. The government also defended lowering pass marks from 35% to 33% to improve student progression, while reviewing State Education Policy recommendations.

NEW BIKE LINE IN CITY?

Pedestrians edged out as bikers take over footpath

ADAM MANIYAR
BENGALURU

Pedestrian safety has become a growing concern along the ISRO Junction to Manipal Hospital stretch on HAL Main Road, as an increasing number of two-wheeler riders are using the footpath as an alternate lane to avoid traffic congestion.

The issue, observed during both morning and evening peak hours, has caused severe inconvenience to office-goers, hospital visitors, and nearby residents. The narrow footpaths, meant exclusively for pedestrians, are now frequently occupied by motorcycles maneuvering through the crowd, forcing walkers to step onto the main carriageway and risk accidents.

Commuters and local employees have voiced strong concern over the lack of enforcement in the area. "It has become almost impossible to walk safely. Many patients and elderly visitors to the hospital face great difficulty navigating the stretch," said a commuter working near ISRO Junction.

Residents have appealed to the Bengaluru Traffic Police and authorities concerned to take immediate action. Their suggestions include the installation of bollards along the footpath, deployment of traffic marshals, and strict penalties for violators.

"Safeguarding pedestrian rights is crucial in a city grappling with rising vehicular density. Regular monitoring and dedicated rule enforcement can help restore safety and discipline among riders.

Experts emphasize that protecting pedestrian rights is crucial in a city struggling with rising vehicular density. Regular monitoring and dedicated enforcement, they say, can help restore safety and discipline on this important road link connecting key institutions and residential areas. Authorities are expected to take note of the situation and implement measures to ensure that the footpath serves its rightful purpose a safe and unobstructed passage for pedestrians.

K'taka cabinet approves winter session in Belagavi

BENGALURU

The Karnataka cabinet has decided to hold the winter session of the state legislature in Belagavi for 10 days starting December 8, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil announced on Thursday.

The decision aims to continue the tradition of conducting at least one session each year in the northern district to address regional concerns.

Minister Patil stated that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been authorized to make the final decision regarding the session's details and scheduling.

The cabinet also reviewed pending matters related to key committees that have not submitted their reports for over six months.

Among them is the Justice John Michael D'Cunha committee, which was set up to examine the procurement of medicines and medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another committee, led by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, is responsible for reviewing the financial conditions of Karnataka's universities and recommending corrective steps.

A third committee, headed by Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, is reviewing progress on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project and will suggest measures for its future development.

Patil said the cabinet directed all three sub-committees to submit their reports at the earliest, even though no strict deadline was specified.

"The government wants timely action on long-pending issues and full accountability from all departments," he emphasized. The upcoming session is expected to cover key legislative matters, regional development issues, and administrative reviews, with Belagavi's Suvarna Vidhana Soudha once again serving as the venue for Karnataka's winter legislative proceedings.

Vehicle owners struggle as RTO halts NOC issuance

BENGALURU

Thousands of vehicle owners across Karnataka are facing major trouble as the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) have stopped issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the last three months. Without this legal document, sellers are unable to transfer ownership or re-register their vehicles, leaving them legally responsible for vehicles they no longer own.

An NOC confirms that a vehicle has no pending dues, challans, or legal issues and is essential for transferring registration between RTOs. However, since August, the transport department has reportedly stopped issuing NOCs without giving a clear explanation. This delay has caused distress among citizens and car dealers alike.

Anant Hudenganj, who sold his vehicle before the Ganesh festival, said he is still waiting for ownership transfer.

"If my old car is involved in an accident or crime, I'll be blamed. The government must fix this immediately," he said. RTO officials have told applicants that the delay is due to "new software installation."

'Phone-in Programme' for north city residents today

BENGALURU

To strengthen public communication and ensure quick redressal of civic complaints, the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has launched a weekly 'Phone-in Programme' led by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. The next session will be held from 7 am to 9 am on November 14, where citizens can speak directly with the Commissioner. Residents can raise issues related to potholes, streetlight repairs, waste collection, tree trimming, mosquito control, stray dog management, park maintenance, unauthorized banners, footpath encroachments, e-Khata problems, and drainage issues. All complaints received during the phone-in will be immediately registered on the 'Sahaaya 2.0' portal and forwarded to the relevant department for action. Citizens will receive an SMS confirmation with a complaint number and contact details of the responsible officer for follow-up.

For convenience, residents may also use the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile app to submit grievances anytime.

The Corporation stated that this initiative aims to make administration more transparent, responsive, and people-friendly, ensuring that public concerns are heard directly by the top official.

CONTACT NUMBERS
Mobile/WhatsApp: 9480685705
Landline: 080-22975936 / 080-23636671

BECC steps up ongoing infra development projects

BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) is pushing forward with development projects to improve city infrastructure and commuter convenience.

On Thursday, Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner (Development), conducted on-site inspections of key ongoing works, including road resurfacing, pothole repairs, storm-water drain construction, and a community hall project.

At Hagadur and Naggondanahalli, the Commissioner checked the recently resurfaced roads. He reviewed the quality of the work to ensure it meets the set standards, stressing that residents deserve smooth and safe travel. During his visit to Hagadur's storm-water drain project, he inspected the retaining wall construction and instructed officials to speed up work while maintaining proper slope alignment.

This step is intended to prevent waterlogging and ensure smooth drainage during rains. In Nallurhalli, Siddapura Road, and Varthur–Gunjur Road, pothole repair works were closely reviewed. The Commissioner directed officials to complete all pending repairs quickly to avoid inconvenience and enhance commuter safety.

At the community hall under construction in Nallurhalli, the focus was on completing the first-floor roof slab. The Additional Commissioner urged engineers to adhere to timelines without compromising quality.

He emphasized that urban infrastructure projects have a direct impact on citizens' daily lives. Officials were warned that any negligence or delays would result in accountability measures.

He underlined that all civic works, including road repairs, drainage, and construction projects, must be completed promptly and to the highest standards.

Executive Engineer Raghavendra BN, Assistant Executive Engineers Gururajan and Ravikumar, and Assistant General Manager Jyoti Choulkar, along with other officials, accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

The city administration's active supervision highlights its commitment to safer roads, better drainage, and timely completion of community facilities, reflecting a stronger focus on quality and service for Bengaluru residents.

HC gives nod for RSS procession in Chittapur

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has allowed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold a procession in Chittapur of Kalaburagi district on November 16 as part of the organization's 100th anniversary celebrations.

Justice M.G.S. Kamal of the Kalaburagi Bench delivered the ruling while hearing a petition filed by Ashok Patil, the RSS district convener. The petition challenged the district administration's refusal to permit the event. The court observed that the Tahsildar had already granted permission for a limited procession and therefore disposed of the petition by confirming the approval.

According to the court's order, 300 RSS members and 50 musicians will be allowed to take part in the procession. The bench made it clear that the decision aligns with the permission already issued at the local level.

The case gained significance due to an earlier state government order issued on October 18, 2025, which required official permission for all civic, social, or cultural gatherings involving more than 10 people in public places. The court had previously stayed that government order, noting that it restricted citizens' fundamental rights to freedom of speech, expression, and assembly.

During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer requested an increase in the number of participants, citing the centenary celebrations, while Advocate General Shashikaran Shetty opposed the plea, arguing that the local authorities had already considered past event sizes.

After reviewing both sides, the bench upheld the Tahsildar's permission with a minor revision, allowing 50 musicians to participate. The decision was widely seen as a reaffirmation of constitutional freedoms and a balanced approach between public order and citizens' rights.

Devanahalli to host Children's Day celebrations today

DEVANAHALLI

The Bengaluru Rural District Administration, in association with the Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, District Balabhavan Society, and School Education Department, will celebrate Children's Day at Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Devanahalli Town at 10 am on Friday.

As per officials, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Bengaluru Rural District In-charge KH Muniyappa will inaugurate the event. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Lakshmi Hebbalkar and several dignitaries, including C Narayanaswamy, Sharath Kumar Bachegowda, and Chikkaballapur MP Dr K Sudhakar will be present.

The event aims to honor Jawaharlal Nehru's love for children and inspire young students to pursue excellence with dedication and creativity, they said.

The programme will feature speeches, cultural performances, and activities emphasizing children's rights, education, and empowerment. Representatives from various local bodies, including municipal and gram panchayat officials, will join the celebration along with students, teachers, and parents from across the district.

'BE GREEN-FIELD LEADER'

Adopt modern farming methods, become entrepreneurs

BENGALURU

Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy has urged farmers to adopt modern farming practices and become entrepreneurial leaders in agriculture.

Speaking at the inauguration of Krishi Mela 2025 at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bengaluru, he said agricultural fairs help farmers gain knowledge about high-yield and low-cost crops, boosting productivity and income. The four-day fair, themed "Prosperous Agriculture – Developed India: Land, Water and Crops," showcases innovations from Bangalore Agricultural University, which the minister praised for consistently releasing new crop varieties. He emphasized that both Central and State governments are working to make agriculture a sustainable industry.

Chaluvarayaswamy revealed that under the PMFME scheme, the Karnataka Processing and Export Corporation (KPEC) provided ₹15 lakh subsidies to 5,000 entrepreneurs. Sharing his visit to the International Rice Research Center in the Philippines, he said Indian scientists are also developing flood-resistant rice varieties similar to those found abroad.

He called for scientific and integrated farming, fair pricing, efficient marketing systems, and drought management to achieve sustainable agriculture. "Our goal is to make farmers' lives better through innovation and research support," he said.

Three progressive farmers were honoured with state-level awards during the event. Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Agriculture Secretary S. Selvakumar, and university officials S.V. Suresh, Narayanaswamy, and Dr. T.K. Prabhakar Shetty were present.

QUICK READ

'Steps being taken to make C'ballapur tobacco-free dist'

Chikkaballapur
In a major step toward promoting public health and youth well-being, the Chikkaballapur district administration has taken the initiative to transform the district into a tobacco-free zone. District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Y. Naveen Bhatt called upon citizens from all walks of life to join hands in this mission during the launch of the Nasha Mukt Bharat and Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0 awareness rally held on Thursday. The event was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Department of Women and Child Development, Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Grievance meet on power supply issues on Nov 15

Chikkaballapur
The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has announced that a customer interaction and grievance redressal meeting will be held across all sub-division offices under the Chikkaballapur division on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. The meeting aims to address public complaints and concerns related to electricity supply and service issues. According to a press release issued by Executive Engineer (Electrical) P. G. Ramesh Kumar, the meeting will be chaired by the Executive Engineer (V) and Assistant Executive Engineer (V) at their respective sub-division offices. Consumers falling under the jurisdiction of each sub-division have been invited to participate in the session and voice their grievances regarding electricity supply.

Embrace scientific thinking, students told

Mandya
A science exhibition organized by the Mandya Women's Government College (Autonomous), in association with the Science Forum and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), was inaugurated today (November 13) by lighting a ceremonial lamp. Speaking at the event, the chief guest emphasized that education is essential for developing mental strength and that students should cultivate a deeper interest in science to contribute meaningfully to society. The speaker highlighted India's long-standing legacy of scientific discovery, noting that even during the pre-colonial era, the country had advanced knowledge systems. The British did not come to India merely for spices; they were also drawn by our ancient Ayurvedic wisdom.

Sports Dept offers incentives, award schemes for athletes

In addition to these incentive programs, the department has also invited nominations for prestigious state-level awards

CHITRADURGA

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has announced that applications are now open for various sports-related incentive and award schemes aimed at recognizing and supporting athletes who have excelled at different levels of competition.

According to the department, athletes from Karnataka who have participated or won medals at national or international levels during 2023 and 2024 are eligible to apply for the Cash Award Incentive Scheme. Similarly, under the Educational Fee Reimbursement Scheme, sportspersons pursuing PUC, degree, postgraduate, or professional courses who have represented the state or won medals in national or international events can seek reimbursement of academic fees.

For school-level athletes, the Sports Scholarship Scheme for 2024–25 offers scholarships to students from Class 6 to Class 10 who have secured first place in state-level tournaments or have represented the state and won medals in official national-level competitions.

In addition to these incentive programs, the department has also invited nominations for prestigious state-level awards. These include the Ekalavya Award for athletes who have demonstrated exceptional performance, the Lifetime Achievement Award for veteran coaches who have contributed significantly to sports development, the Karnataka Kreeda Ratna Award for achievers in rural and traditional sports, and the Karnataka Kreeda Poshaka Award for institutions promoting sports in the state.

Eligible sportspersons can submit their applications online through the official Seva Sindhu portal at https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in before December 3, as per the notification issued by the Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports.

The case was pending since 2019 and was settled through hybrid mode involving both in-person and video conference proceedings

Lok Adalat helps solve 92-yr-old woman's property case

RAMANAGARA

In a remarkable instance of justice and compassion, a 92-year-old woman's long-pending civil case was amicably resolved through the Lok Adalat in Ramanagara, marking a rare and heartwarming conclusion. The case, which had been pending since 2019, was settled on Thursday through hybrid mode, involving both in-person and video conference proceedings.

Demonstrating exceptional commitment, the presiding judge personally visited the elderly woman to facilitate the proceedings, ensuring that her age and physical limitations did not become an obstacle to justice. Another party involved in the case joined through video conference, allowing the Lok Adalat to finalize the compromise and bring the case to an end.

Lok Adalats, often referred to as People's Courts, provide a simplified platform for dispute resolution where conciliation is prioritized over litigation. Cases are settled through mutual agreement between the disputing parties under the guidance of judges and legal experts. Once a settlement is reached and a decree is issued, the decision becomes final and cannot be appealed further.

The system has proven effective in reducing the burden on regular courts while saving time and expenses for the litigants.

The case in question—O.S. 14/2019—involved a property dispute filed by P. Girija against her father Puttananjayya and her brothers, Mohan Kumar and P. Shashikumar. Girija had challenged the sale of ancestral property allegedly executed without her consent in 2006. Under the guidance of Senior Civil Judge Nivedita T.M. and DLSA Member Secretary Savitha P.R., both parties were persuaded to reach an amicable settlement. Girija agreed to accept monetary compensation in lieu of her share, while one of her brothers, residing in London, provided his consent via video conference.

Thus, after six years of litigation, the elderly woman's case found a peaceful conclusion, symbolizing the humane spirit and efficiency of the Lok Adalat system.

Parent-Teacher Meet to boost overall devpt of students

CHITRADURGA

In a significant initiative aimed at enhancing the educational development of students, the Chitradurga Zilla Panchayat will organize a Parent-Teacher General Meeting (Mahasabha) across all government primary, secondary, and pre-university colleges in the district on November 14. The event seeks to foster a healthy exchange of ideas between parents, teachers, and students for the holistic growth of children.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash has appealed to all parents to participate actively in the Mahasabha and contribute to the success of the program. He emphasized that discussions during the meeting will focus on reducing absenteeism, preventing school dropouts, improving academic results, and encouraging the overall progress of each child. The CEO noted that parents play a crucial role in their children's educational journey and that their cooperation is vital for ensuring regular attendance and promoting quality education. The meeting will also address ways to create a conducive learning environment through collective participation from parents, teachers, and local representatives.

Punish those behind terror activities without delay: MLA

TUMAKURU

'Maintaining law and order is a collective responsibility and the police and intelligence agencies must remain vigilant and proactive'

Legislator SR Srinivas has called for swift and strict action against individuals involved in terrorist activities, emphasizing that such elements pose a grave threat to national security and public peace. Speaking to reporters in Tumakuru, the MLA said that terrorism, in any form, should be met with zero tolerance and that those found guilty must be punished without delay. People who support or participate in anti-national and extremist activities must be identified at the earliest and brought to justice, Srinivas stated.

He added that maintaining law and order is a collective responsibility and urged the police and intelligence agencies to remain vigilant and proactive in preventing extremist activities. The legislator also highlighted the importance of community awareness and cooperation with law enforcement to curb the spread of radical ideologies.

Srinivas further remarked that terrorism not only disrupts peace but also hinders the nation's progress. He urged the government to strengthen counter-terrorism mechanisms, enhance intelligence coordination, and ensure that those involved in such acts face the harshest legal consequences.

The MLA's statement comes in the backdrop of increasing concerns about extremist activities in certain regions. His appeal reinforces the message that decisive action is essential to safeguard public safety and uphold national integrity.

Tumakuru students want KSRTC ply bus on time

TUMAKURU

A group of college students from Tumakuru visited the residence of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Chairman, requesting that buses be operated on time to help them reach their colleges without delay.

The students expressed their difficulties in attending morning classes due to irregular bus schedules and frequent delays.

According to the students, several KSRTC buses operating between rural areas and Tumakuru city often run late, causing them to miss important lectures and internal examinations. They said that despite repeated complaints at local depots, the issue persists, forcing many to depend on private vehicles or reach college late every day. The students urged KSRTC officials to review the current schedule and ensure that buses are dispatched on time, especially during the morning and evening peak hours when college students and office-goers rely heavily on public transport. They also requested that additional buses be deployed on routes with high student traffic. The KSRTC Chairman reportedly assured the students that their concerns would be addressed immediately. He directed the concerned officials to assess the affected routes and make necessary adjustments to improve service punctuality. The move by the students has drawn public attention to the broader issue of irregular public transport services in educational zones. Many parents and teachers have supported the students' appeal, emphasizing that reliable transportation is essential for ensuring punctuality, safety, and academic discipline among college-going youth.

'Students should balance academics with cultural pursuits'

MYSURU

Encouraging students to balance academics with cultural pursuits, Mysuru Division Joint Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture VN Mallikarjun Swamy emphasized the importance of participating in cultural competitions to develop a spirit of healthy competition and creativity.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Kala Pratibhotsava 2025–26, organized by the District Administration and the Department of Kannada and Culture at Gandhi Bhavan in the city on Thursday.

Swamy highlighted that for the past eight years, the Department of Kannada and Culture has been organizing the Kala Pratibhotsava competitions in every district to identify and encourage young artistic talent. Winners at the district level will have the opportunity to compete at the divisional level, providing them with wider recognition and exposure.

Ex-MLA accuses DC of corruption; announces 'Jail Bharo' stir

RAMANAGARA

Former MLA A Manjunath has levelled serious allegations against Bengaluru South District Deputy Commissioner Yashwanth, accusing him of corruption, misuse of authority, and illegal acquisition of land in Bidadi under benami names.

Speaking at a press conference held in Byramangala, Bidadi taluk, on Thursday, Manjunath announced that a Jail Bharo protest will soon be organized against the Deputy Commissioner's actions. He also stated that formal complaints will be submitted to the Governor, the Chief Secretary of the State Government, and the Lokayukta seeking an inquiry into the alleged irregularities.

Manjunath alleged that under the Bidadi Smart City project, the Deputy Commissioner had acquired 300 to 400 acres of land using intermediaries and agents. We have documentary evidence of these illegal transactions, and even the agents are openly discussing their involvement, he claimed. The former MLA accused the officer of acting in an autocratic manner and not discharging his duties in a transparent or accountable way.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KARTHI YAYINI, K., W/O KRISHNA NEHRU.R., residing at No.39/1, Main Channel Road, Shamanna Gowda Layout, near Kumar Motors, Halasuru, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560008, do hereby solemnly, affirm and state that my name wrongly menioned in my son JAIAKASH.K,'s 10th markscard as **KARTHIVAVINIK,** my correct name is **KARTHI YAYINIK.** vide affidavite dated 13-11-2025 sworn before notary A. R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I RABI SHANKAR PRASAD S/O Raj Kumar Prasad, R/O S2, Second Floor, Bhanusri Nivas, 210/111, Garvebhavipalya, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore - 560068, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD.

CHANGE OF NAME

I VIKAS YADAV T M S/O T G MUNIRAJU, R/O Turuvanahalli village, Tubagere, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka - 561205, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHRUVA MUNIRAJU.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BOMMAIAH K V, S/O VEERA KYATHE GOWDA, R/O No. 116, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Vijaya Lakshmi Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560073, have changed the name of my daughter SUDHA B aged 08 years and she shall hereafter be known as MONISHA B.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HANUMANTAPPA K S/O TIPPAYYA, aged about 21 years, residing at No. 362, Near Matt, Somalapura, Bellary, Karnataka - 583113, have changed my name from K HANUMANTHA to HANUMANTAPPA K for all practical /documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-10-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Dharani. P., Bengaluru, Karnataka.

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
Office : 08262- 234032 Fax: 08622-32272 Commissioner : 08262-232272 Helpline: 08262-232222
E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website : www.chickmagalurcity.gov.in
No.: CMC/H.D./H.D./ABC/R/01/2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025
e-Procurement Re Tender Notice
Tender is invited from eligible firms for implementing the works detailed below. Those interested can submit the Tender subject to conditions.
Sl.No.1. Details : DMA/2025-26/SE5776/CALL-4 **E.M.D.(in Rs.):** 87,500.00
Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement. Time Period: 03 Months
1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 27.11.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.
2. Date of opening Bid: 29.11.2025 at 17.30 Hrs.
Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Due to any reason, if there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers.
Sd/- (Smt. B. Sheela Dinesh) President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru. **Sd/- (Smt Lalitha Ravinaik) Vice President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.**
Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/ckm/No.103/ksmca/25-26/1223

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
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ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ. ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋನ್ ನಂಬರ್ 08192–262973
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:dobcmdavanagere@gmail.com,
ಸಂ/ಹಿಂವಕಇ/ದಾ/ಹೊ.ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–60/2025–26.
ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
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ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

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Website: https://cimscnrnagara.karnataka.gov.in
No. CIMS/Tender/Ho.Gu./172/2024–25 Dated: 03.11.2025
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER
The Short Term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for providing various Group 'D' & Lab. Attendants Manpower on Out-source basis to the Teaching Hospitals of Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamarajanagar for the period of two years. The interested tenderers may apply tender through e-portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or before 28.11.2025 at 5.00 PM by paying E.M.D.
If the last date for submission of tender is declared as a Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as the last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued.
Sd/-
Dean and Director,
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamarajanagar.
No: DIPR: CHANAGAR:491:2025-26

QUICK READ

Firecracker factory blast kills 2 in UP

Barabanki

Two people were killed and three others injured after an explosion rocked a licensed firecracker factory in Sarai Barai village in Tikaitnagar of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. Police suspect that something inside the unit triggered the blast, which caused a major fire and sent thick smoke billowing into the sky. The incident created panic among villagers, while police and firefighters rushed to the spot to control the situation and rescue the injured.

Army-IAF hold joint drill on Himalayan belt

Itanagar

The Indian Army and Air Force are carrying out a major joint combat exercise in Arunachal Pradesh's high-altitude Himalayan region to test operational readiness and coordination, officials said on Thursday. The drill, which began on November 10, includes the use of helicopters, UAVs, space-based systems, and special forces for surveillance and target simulation. Lt Gen Abhijit S Pendharkar, GoC of 3 Corps, reviewed the exercise and praised the strong teamwork and preparedness displayed.

K'taka policies deepen cane growers' crises: Joshi

The state cannot ignore central reforms and then blame the Centre for its own shortcomings, says the Union Minister

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Pralhad Joshi has strongly criticised the Karnataka government for failing to address the hardships of sugarcane farmers.

In an open letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, he said the state cannot ignore central reforms and then blame the Centre for its own shortcomings.

Joshi stated that while the central government has maintained fair pricing and promoted market stability, the state is responsible for payments, irrigation, and subsidy management. He said farmers' troubles mainly stem from lapses in state policies.

He noted that Karnataka still operates under a 2017-18 Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), unlike Maharashtra, which adopted a new one in April 2025. Without a new PPA, sugar mills lose steady income and face difficulties getting bank loans.

Joshi also highlighted that the state raised electricity charges twice — by 70 paise per unit in 2023 and another 36 paise in 2025. These hikes, along with increased diesel VAT, have badly hit the earnings of both farmers and sugar mills.

Skyrocketing water charges

Water charges for mills have reportedly jumped from ₹5 lakh to ₹1 crore per year. Transport costs have risen to ₹750–₹800 per ton, further burdening producers.

The minister reminded that the Centre's Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) sets only a minimum limit, and states can announce higher State-Advised Prices (SAP). He urged Karnataka to take responsibility and act swiftly to protect farmers' interests.

Nationwide crackdown ensures smooth fertilizer supply

NEW DELHI

The Department of Fertilizers (DoF), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), has carried out an extensive nationwide operation to secure fertilizer availability and protect farmers' interests during the 2025–26 Kharif and Rabi seasons. The initiative involved multiple joint meetings between central and state officials to strengthen the fertilizer supply chain.

District authorities, supported by state governments, conducted a record 3,17,054 inspections and raids to tackle black marketing, hoarding, and diversion. These actions led to 5,119 show-cause notices, 3,645 license cancellations or suspensions, and 418 FIRs. For hoarding, 667 notices and 202 license cancellations were issued, while diversion cases saw 2,991 notices and 451 cancellations.

Major states including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat led with strong enforcement. Uttar Pradesh alone carried out 28,273 inspections, issuing nearly 2,000 notices and registering 157 FIRs. Maharashtra followed with over 42,000 inspections and 1,000 license cancellations, while Rajasthan and Bihar also undertook major actions to ensure fair supply and price stability.

Centre and states jointly launched a massive enforcement drive during Kharif and Rabi 2025–26 to curb black marketing, hoarding, and diversion, protecting farmers and maintaining fertilizer availability.

To maintain quality, 3,544 notices were issued for suspected sub-standard fertilizers, resulting in 1,316 license suspensions and 60 FIRs. Continuous testing and digital monitoring ensured that only quality fertilizers reached farmers.

Commending the coordinated effort, the DoF lauded state and district teams for protecting farmers and maintaining transparency, urging stakeholders to report any irregularities to sustain fair fertilizer distribution nationwide.

MEASURES TAKEN

- The Department of Fertilizers coordinated major crackdown on black marketing, hoarding, and diversion to safeguard smooth fertilizer supply during Kharif and ongoing Rabi season 2025-26.
- Intensive inspections and legal actions by states ensure fair distribution and prevent malpractices.
- Coordinated quality enforcement removes sub-standard fertilizers and upholds farmer trust.
- Digital monitoring and real-time coordination reinforce availability, transparency, and accountability across India.

Sabarimala gold scam: SIT to grill ex-TDB secretary soon

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the loss of gold from Sabarimala temple will soon interrogate former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) secretary S. Jayashree, officials said on Thursday. Her anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the Pathanamthitta District and Principal Sessions Court earlier in the day.

Jayashree, the fourth accused in the case involving missing gold from the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idol plates, had earlier ignored a summons to appear before investigators. Instead, she had approached the Kerala High Court for anticipatory bail, which later directed her to the lower court.

During the hearing, Jayashree told the court she feared arrest and cited health issues, denying any role in the alleged gold theft. However, the SIT maintained that as TDB secretary in 2019, she signed an order allowing the Dwarapalaka plates to be handed to the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potty.

Investigators allege that the plates were wrongly described as copper instead of gold-clad, enabling Potty to misappropriate the gold. The court, citing the seriousness of the offence, rejected her plea for protection from arrest.

So far, five people, including three TDB officials and a former president, have been arrested in the case. The SIT, acting on Kerala High Court directions, is probing two cases — one involving the Dwarapalaka idol plates and another linked to the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) doorframe. The team will soon seek custody of former TDB president N. Vasu, arrested earlier this week.

Declare Saranda forest as a wildlife sanctuary: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Jharkhand government to officially notify 31,468.25 hectares of the Saranda forest as a wildlife sanctuary, stressing that the state cannot "run away from its duty." The directive came after the state repeatedly changed its stand before the apex court.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, along with Justice K. Vinod Chandran, delivered the order, noting that the state had earlier agreed the entire 31,468.25-hectare area, first declared a game sanctuary in 1968, contained no active mining and needed legal protection.

Rejecting Jharkhand's attempt to reduce the sanctuary area to 24,941.64 hectares, the court stated there was no valid reason for such a move. The judges pointed out that several affidavits filed by the state confirmed the absence of operational mines or diversion of forest land in the entire zone.

The court criticized the state's delay and inconsistent actions, calling its conduct "totally unfair." The Chief Secretary had been summoned earlier for failing to comply with previous court directions, which the Bench described as contemptuous.

The judgment cited a report from the Wildlife Institute of India, which described the region as "of immense ecological and biodiversity significance." It also referred to the Justice M.B. Shah Commission's findings on the environmental damage caused by illegal mining in the area, which forms part of the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.

Reaffirming the state's constitutional duty under Articles 48A and 51A(g), the court said Jharkhand must declare the entire 31,468.25-hectare region as the Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary. Existing community rights, the court clarified, could continue under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Cong restricted to social media politics: MP CM

DEWAS

In a sharp criticism of the Congress party, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said that Congress leaders have restricted themselves to social media, which is why they have failed to win any elections in the state for the last 20 years.

Addressing a large gathering of farmers in Dewas, Yadav accused the Congress of opposing government efforts aimed at public welfare. He said the party questions the BJP government's celebrations of religious festivals and criticises schemes like Ladli Behna Yojana that provide direct financial support to women and farmers. "I don't understand why Congress leaders feel upset when money is transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries," Yadav remarked. He added that the opposition has lost connection with the people and that this disconnection has kept them away from power for two decades. "If Congress continues on this path, they will remain in opposition for the next 50 years," he said, without naming any specific leader. During the event, Yadav transferred ₹233 crore into the accounts of 1.33 lakh soybean farmers under the Bhavantar scheme. He described the initiative as a major step to ensure fair prices for farmers' produce and praised their contribution to building Madhya Pradesh's identity as the "soybean state."

Punjab cops bust ISI-backed grenade attack module

CHANDIGARH

In a major success, the Ludhiana Commissionerate Police have dismantled a Pakistan-based ISI-backed grenade attack module and arrested 10 individuals involved in the conspiracy, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav announced on Thursday.

The accused were identified as Kuldeep Singh, Shekhar Singh and Ajay Singh from Muktsar Sahib. Others, including Amrik Singh, Parminder, Vijay, Sukhjit Singh, Sukhwinder Singh, Karanveer Singh and Sajan Kumar, were brought on production warrants from various jails for their role as couriers and facilitators.

Police recovered one 86P Chinese hand grenade, a black kit and a pair of gloves from the accused. Preliminary investigations revealed that the module operated under the guidance of Pakistan-based handlers, who coordinated with three Malaysia-based operatives to deliver the grenade. Their task was to carry out an attack in a crowded area to spread fear and unrest in Punjab.

Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma said that an FIR was filed after intelligence inputs pointed to the suspects. Special teams were formed to act swiftly. Investigations identified the key foreign masterminds as Malaysia-based operatives Ajay "Malaysia", Jass Behbal and Pawandeep, who were in constant contact with local agents.

Vijay, brother of Ajay "Malaysia" and an inmate at Ganganagar Jail in Rajasthan, was also linked to the case. The probe further exposed the local network responsible for handling and transporting the grenade across Punjab.

Nitish Kumar reviews JD(U) warroom preparations

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday made a surprise visit to the Janata Dal (United) headquarters in Patna to inspect the party's war room, set up to track counting trends ahead of the Bihar Assembly election results on Friday. Arriving unannounced, Nitish Kumar reviewed the final arrangements with senior party leaders and data monitoring teams. He spent about 10 minutes in the war room, examining the coordination process and issuing last-minute directions to ensure smooth monitoring of the vote-counting process. After the inspection, the Chief Minister returned to his official residence.

The JD(U) war room has been designed to provide booth-wise updates and real-time counting data from across Bihar. Nitish Kumar's visit is seen as a sign of confidence within the NDA camp, buoyed by exit poll predictions suggesting a comfortable majority for the alliance.

Earlier, on Wednesday, the Chief Minister offered prayers at Patna's Mahavir Temple and also visited a High Court, Mazar, and Gurudwara, in what political analysts described as a message of unity and gratitude ahead of the results.

As Bihar awaits the verdict, both the NDA and the Grand Alliance have gone into final-stage strategy mode. Nitish Kumar is said to be closely monitoring developments from Patna as political temperatures rise across the state.

Trinamool plans balanced candidate mix for 2026

KOLKATA

West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has started preparing a list of potential candidates for the 2026 Assembly elections, aiming to balance young and senior leaders.

Party insiders say this approach could put an end to the "old versus young" debate that had earlier caused internal tensions.

TMC General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee is reportedly leading the process. The candidate list is likely to feature several young faces, with the average age capped around 65 years. However, Chief Minister and party Chairperson Mamata Banerjee remains the key decision-maker. Known as the party's unifying force, her approval will be final on every candidate's name.

The internal rift between senior and young members had grown before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with protests against veteran MPs like Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Sougata Ray. Yet, Mamata stood by her choices, and all senior leaders were re-elected, silencing much of the dissent.

Sources say Abhishek has softened his earlier stance on age limits, appreciating the commitment of older leaders such as 81-year-old Sovandeb Chattopadhyay and 76-year-old Ashok Kumar Deb, who continue to serve actively.

The new selection strategy aims to blend youthful energy with experienced leadership.

HEALTH BOOST

India a key player in global health research: Min

NEW DELHI

India has become a key player in global health research over the past decade, driven by innovations like Rotavac, the COVID-19 vaccines, and initiatives such as MedTech Mitra, said Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Singh Patel on Thursday.

Speaking at the 2nd DHR-ICMR Health Research Excellence Summit 2025, Patel said that India's health research network has grown stronger under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. She praised the country's progress in developing and delivering large-scale medical solutions, making India more self-reliant in MedTech and biomedical innovation.

"India is no longer just innovating; it is providing solutions that reach people across all levels of society," she stated. Patel added that the government is committed to making science and research accessible to everyone, ensuring affordable and equitable healthcare for all citizens.

She also underlined the importance of evidence-based policymaking, noting that clinical guidelines and quality standards must be available to every healthcare professional. Patel said the nation stands at a "defining moment" in its healthcare journey and encouraged scientists to take the lead in developing future-ready technologies like AI-based precision medicine and advanced genomics.

Concluding her speech, Patel congratulated the researchers and award winners at the summit, saying, "India should not only contribute to global science but lead it."

Dr V.K. Paul, Member (Health) of NITI Aayog, noted that India's healthy life expectancy currently stands at 60 years. He said that under the Viksit Bharat vision, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) aims to raise it above 75 years through advanced technologies and innovative healthcare solutions.

Dr Paul also urged the Department of Health Research (DHR) to focus on key health challenges like non-communicable diseases, hypertension, and trauma care.

QUICK READ

Malnutrition cases decline in Thane district

Thane

Thane district has seen a steady fall in child malnutrition cases, officials said on Thursday. Government data shows Severe Acute Malnutrition (SaM) cases dropped from 146 in March 2022 to 90 by September 2025. Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MaM) cases also fell from 1,584 to 1,123 during the same period. Officials credited the regular distribution of supplementary nutrition through 3,561 Anganwadi centres for this progress. Collector Dr. Shrikrishna Panchal said Anganwadi workers need further training to sustain these improvements.

Trader duped of Rs 2.75 cr in fake mobile export deal

Thane

A Navi Mumbai trader has alleged a loss of Rs 2.75 crore in a fake mobile phone export deal, police said on Thursday. The 49-year-old businessman told Panvel Town police that he paid the amount to four accused, including three from Rajasthan, to export 600 iPhones through their company. However, the phones were neither exported nor was his money returned. Based on his complaint, police have registered a case of cheating and are investigating the matter.

Mukul Roy loses assembly membership

Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday disqualified senior leader Mukul Roy from the West Bengal Assembly under the anti-defection law. Roy, who won on a BJP ticket in 2021, had joined the Trinamool Congress later that year in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. A division bench led by Justice Debangsu Basak gave the verdict on petitions filed by BJP leaders Suvendu Adhikari and Ambika Roy, challenging the Speaker's earlier refusal to disqualify Roy.

Defence ministry signs ₹2,095 cr deal for anti-tank missiles

It aims to boost T-90 tank firepower through the purchase of advanced INVAR anti-tank missiles

NEW DELHI

In a major step towards strengthening India's armoured defence capability, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday signed a contract worth Rs 2,095.70 crore with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the procurement of INVAR Anti-Tank Missiles under the 'Buy (Indian)' category.

The agreement was signed at South Block in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, along with senior officials of the MoD and representatives from BDL, a state-owned defence enterprise.

According to the Ministry,

the induction of these missiles will greatly enhance the firepower and strike precision of the Indian Army's T-90 tanks, which form the backbone of India's Armoured Regiments. The INVAR missile is a highly advanced, laser-guided weapon with exceptional hit accuracy and lethality.

The MoD said the system will "transform mechanised warfare and offer a significant operational edge over adversaries." Designed to be fired directly from the T-90 tank's gun barrel, the missile can effectively destroy armoured vehicles fitted with Explosive Reactive Armour.

Key technical features include a 125 mm calibre, 5 km range, semi-automatic control, and a tandem warhead that is resistant to jamming. It can strike both stationary and moving targets travelling up to 70 kmph, ensuring high kill probability in combat.

The signing of this deal comes amid heightened border tensions and follows recent military exercises like Operation Sindoor. The contract not only strengthens national defence but also reinforces the government's commitment to self-reliance in defence production under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative by promoting indigenous technology and public sector expertise.

HDK pushes for multi-district industrial parks in K'taka

Union Minister Piyush Goyal responds positively to HDK's proposal; Centre assures large-scale action

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy has submitted a detailed proposal to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, demanding the establishment of industrial parks across Karnataka.

The plan aims to create balanced regional growth and promote large-scale employment through well-planned industrial clusters.

The proposal identifies Mandya, Mysuru, Bidar, Raichur, Hubli–Dharwad, Hassan, Kolar, Mangaluru, and Chamarajanagar as high-potential districts for industrial development. Each region offers unique resources, strong logistics links, and diverse economic opportunities. Kumaraswamy emphasised that developing Industrial Parks in these areas would help attract private investment and bridge the industrial gap between northern and southern Karnataka.

The representation also suggested that the parks be brought under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), which connects major growth centres across India. Integrating Karnataka's key districts into these corridors would, officials said, accelerate infrastructure upgrades and improve connectivity for goods and exports.

Positive response from Centre

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal appreciated the proposal and assured full support from the Union Government. He said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to strengthen India's manufacturing base and enhance global competitiveness.

Employment and balanced growth

The new parks are expected to create thousands of jobs, develop sector-based clusters, and strengthen regional supply chains. Hubli–Dharwad and Mangaluru are likely to focus on logistics and manufacturing, Raichur on agri-processing, and Mysuru and Kolar on value-added industries.

This initiative marks a significant stride in Karnataka's effort to achieve inclusive, regionally balanced, and sustainable industrial growth.

Argentina, Ireland, US, Singapore Condemn Delhi Blast

NEW DELHI

Argentina has termed the recent explosion near Delhi's Red Fort as a "terrorist attack", extending strong support to India.

Argentina's Ambassador to India, Mariano Caucino, said his country stands firmly with India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this difficult time. Condemning terrorism as "unacceptable," he said Argentina joins all peace-loving nations in rejecting violence in every form.

Caucino recalled Argentina's past tragedies — the 1992 Israeli Embassy blast and the 1994 AMIA Jewish Centre attack — that killed 100 people. "We have not forgotten those losses," he said,

stressing that President Javier Milei firmly rejects terror as a political weapon.

Echoing this, Ireland's Ambassador Kevin Kelly expressed condolences and said terrorism "has no place in society." He wished speedy recovery to the injured and assured Ireland's solidarity with the victims' families.

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan also condemned the car explosion near Red Fort, calling it a "terror incident." He expressed sympathy for the victims and reaffirmed Singapore's support for India.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the blast was "clearly a terrorist attack." He praised India's swift investigation and offered American assistance, though he said India is fully capable of handling the probe.

Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Modi, mourned the victims and directed agencies to complete the investigation urgently. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is leading the probe into the November 10 car explosion that killed 12 and injured several near Red Fort.

ED gets 5-day custody of Jaypee ex-CMD Gaur

NEW DELHI

A Special Delhi Court on Thursday remanded Manoj Gaur, former Chairman and Managing Director of Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL), to five-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for detailed questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged diversion of funds from homebuyers.

The Patiala House Court accepted the ED's request, stating that custodial interrogation was necessary to trace the flow of money collected from thousands of homebuyers who never received their promised flats. Gaur, who also served as the Executive Chairman and CEO of Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL), was arrested earlier in the day under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to the ED, the Jaypee Group collected around Rs 14,599 crore from homebuyers of projects such as Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens, but large portions of the funds were allegedly diverted for non-construction purposes. Investigations revealed that the money was siphoned off to group entities including Jaypee Sewa Sansthan (JSS), Jaypee Healthcare Ltd. (JHL), and Jaypee Sports International Ltd. (JSIL).

The agency also stated that Gaur, as the Managing Trustee of JSS, was responsible for overseeing one of the entities that received part of the diverted funds. Multiple FIRs filed by the Economic Offences Wings (EOW) of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh led to the current probe, citing cheating, criminal conspiracy, and breach of trust by the company's promoters.

2 Mathura cops suspended for negligence

MATHURA

Two sub-inspectors from the Farah police station in Mathura district have been suspended for alleged negligence in handling a rape complaint involving an eight-year-old girl.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shlok Kumar said both officers—Anirudh Kumar and Satish Kumar—failed to register the case under the appropriate sections and have been suspended immediately. A probe has also been ordered into the role of Station House Officer (SHO) Triloki Singh.

According to the SSP, the victim's father had filed a complaint on November 11, alleging that a man named Kanha alias Yogesh from their village lured his daughter into his house and raped her on September 22. He claimed that despite approaching the Farah police on October 7, the officers refused to register a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Instead, the police booked the accused only for possessing an illegal firearm.

The complainant further alleged that police officers pressured him to reach a settlement. When he refused, the accused was arrested under the firearm charge on October 14 but later released on bail on October 27. On seeing the accused return to the village, the victim's father discovered that no rape case had been filed and again approached

senior officials.

Following this, the SSP directed Deputy Superintendent of Police (Cyber Crime) Gunjan Singh to investigate. Based on the inquiry, a new FIR was filed on November 10 under sections 5(m)/6 of the POCSO Act and Section 65(2) of the BNS. The accused was later arrested in Vrindavan.

The SSP added that the accused's uncle, Om Prakash, who allegedly threatened the victim's father, has also been arrested. Further legal and departmental action will follow the inquiry.

India must target sustainable energy future: Bery

NEW DELHI

India's vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) must rest on affordable, sustainable, and resilient energy systems, said NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery on Thursday.

Speaking at the CII Energy Security Conference, Bery emphasised that India's development goals go beyond economic growth to creating an inclusive society driven by energy access and sustainability.

"Energy security is not just about supply; it is about affordability, diversification, and resilience," he said, stressing that the future will depend on scaling up existing technologies like solar, hydrogen, and renewables rather than relying solely on new inventions.

Bery called for a rethinking of India's energy market structure, particularly in hydrocarbons, advocating a balanced role for both public and private sectors to boost efficiency and innovation. He underlined that India's climate commitments arise from conviction, not external pressure, and must balance environmental priorities with affordability and industrial competitiveness.

He described energy security as both a diplomatic and structural challenge, noting that global unpredictability in energy markets can affect national choices. Bery highlighted that while India has achieved major progress in electricity access, maintaining affordability is crucial to avoid a high-cost energy trap.

DRUG CRISIS NE

'NE facing 'public health emergency' from drug menace'

DIMAPUR

Nagaland Director General of Police (DGP) Rupin Sharma has warned that drug trafficking in the Northeast has become both a "public health emergency" and a "national security threat." Speaking at the two-day Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF) in Chumoukedima on Thursday, he urged for a unified and technology-driven approach among states.

Sharma said the Northeast has become the centre of India's anti-drug campaign due to its open border with Myanmar and closeness to the Golden Triangle. He noted that Nagaland alone has about 1.2 lakh drug users, mostly addicted to heroin, locally called "Shaanflower."

He explained that even minimal daily use results in huge yearly consumption, worsening the drug crisis. The illegal trade, he warned, fuels organised crime, insurgency,

and narco-terrorism. "Dismantling drug cartels is essential for national security," he stated.

To tackle the problem, Sharma proposed a three-point plan — coordination, enforcement, and accountability. He called for real-time information sharing, use of modern tools like darknet tracking, and stricter financial monitoring with banks.

Highlighting weak prosecution, he said proper documentation and shared criminal databases are vital for conviction. Sharma suggested changes to the NDPS Act, a regional anti-drug agency, and new forensic labs across the Northeast.

He also stressed the role of NGOs, churches, and communities in rehabilitation. "A recovered addict is a success story for society," he said, urging collective action for a truly drug-free Northeast.

Gujarat ATS arrests 2 former UP Madrassa students

MUZAFFARNAGAR

Two youths from Uttar Pradesh, arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) for suspected links to terrorist activities, had earlier studied together at a madrassa in Budhana town of Muzaffarnagar district, officials said on Thursday.

The accused were identified as Azad Suleman Sheikh (20), a tailor from Jhinjhana in Shamli district, and Mohammad Suhail Khan (23) from Lakhimpur Kheri. According to the madrassa management and police sources, both had pursued Hafiz-e-Quran (Quran memorisation) courses before leaving at different times.

Maulana Daud, the mohtamim (head) of the madrassa, confirmed their past association with the institution but said they left well before their arrests. "Azad studied here from 2018 to 2019 and stopped coming when the madrassa closed during the COVID-19 lockdown. Suhail joined three

months ago but left on November 5, saying his father was unwell," Daud told reporters.

He stressed that the madrassa provides only religious education and has "no link with any illegal activity." He said he learned about their arrests only through media reports.

Sheikh's father, Suleman, who works as a construction labourer, claimed his son was innocent. "He had gone on a 40-day Tablighi Jamaat trip to West Bengal and later said he was returning to the madrassa. We later found out about his arrest from the news," he said.

Shamli Superintendent of Police N.P. Singh confirmed that Sheikh was taken into custody by the Gujarat ATS for interrogation, while the Uttar Pradesh ATS is also probing his background. "No passport has been found in his name. His financial and local connections are being verified," Singh said.

The Gujarat ATS arrested both men on November 8, though officials have withheld further details, citing an ongoing investigation.

India-Spain hold talks to strengthen bilateral ties

NEW DELHI

India and Spain on Thursday held the 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi, reviewing the full range of their bilateral relationship and discussing key regional and global issues of shared interest.

The meeting was co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Diego Martínez Belio, Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs. Both sides explored avenues to deepen cooperation in trade, defence, culture, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

In a post on social media platform X, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, especially in the context of the upcoming India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence.

QUICK READ

Bangladesh awaits ICT verdict on Hasina case

Dhaka

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) will announce its verdict on November 17 in the case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, accused of crimes against humanity during last year's July uprising. The decision comes amid a nationwide lockdown called by the banned Awami League, disrupting life across Dhaka and beyond. Security forces and the army have tightened control at airports and key sites. Reports of arson and explosions continue, while arrests of party leaders rise. Hasina, ousted in 2024's student-led revolt, fled to India before Nobel laureate Mohd Yunus formed the current interim government.

Civilian Killed as Thailand-Cambodia Border Tensions Escalate

Phnom Penh

Tensions flared again along the Thailand-Cambodia border after a deadly exchange of gunfire left one Cambodian civilian dead and three injured. Cambodia condemned what it called an "unprovoked attack" by Thai forces in Banteay Meanchey province, filing a formal protest. Thailand, however, accused Cambodian troops of firing first near Sa Kaeo province. The clash followed Thailand's suspension of a recent US-backed peace treaty signed during the ASEAN Summit. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul vowed to act "as we see fit," while both nations reinforced troops along the disputed frontier, raising fears of renewed border conflict.

South Korea pledges stronger human rights protections

Seoul

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met with families of democracy activists on Thursday, promising stronger protections for human rights. Speaking at a luncheon marking the 40th anniversary of the association for relatives of those jailed or tortured during the 1970s–80s pro-democracy movements, Lee acknowledged the suffering endured under past dictatorships. He praised the mothers who led protests and said South Korea has become a respected democratic nation thanks to their efforts.

Donald Trump signs bill, ending America's longest govt shutdown

The shutdown halted air travel, food programs, and federal pay and the new legislation restarts services

NEW YORK

The United States' longest-ever government shutdown has officially ended after President Donald Trump signed legislation passed by Congress to temporarily fund federal operations. The 42-day standoff between Republicans and Democrats finally broke when the House approved the Senate-backed bill to reopen government functions.

The shutdown had frozen key services like air travel, food assistance programs, and federal pay. With the new legislation, these operations will restart, though it may take some time for full recovery. Federal employees, including those who worked without pay, will now receive their pending salaries.

Trump hailed the moment as a "great day," declaring it a victory for Republicans since they secured the funding bill without conceding to Democratic demands over Obamacare subsidies. The deadlock ended when eight Democrats joined Republicans in a crucial Senate vote earlier this week.

The funding will last until the end of the year, with certain programs like aid for retired soldiers and food support for about 42 million Americans extended until September. The House passed the measure 222–209, mostly along party lines. Democratic leaders admitted frustration but said they aimed to avoid further harm to citizens dependent on federal aid. Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, one of six Democrats who crossed the aisle, said people "shouldn't trade their dinner for a political message."

President Trump used the occasion to urge voters not to forget the shutdown during next year's midterm elections. Meanwhile, Democrats promised to push again for expanding health insurance subsidies when the next budget negotiations begin.

French Minister plans Algeria visit as ties improve

Sansal, a well-known critic of Algerian authorities, was arrested in November 2024, sentenced to five years in March 2025, and pardoned Wednesday, easing Algiers-Paris tensions

PARIS

France's Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Thursday that he was likely to visit Algeria soon, signalling a thaw in relations between the two nations. The announcement followed Algeria's release of French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, who had been jailed for undermining national unity.

Sansal, a prominent critic of Algerian authorities, was arrested in November 2024 and sentenced in March 2025 to five years in prison. His pardon on Wednesday by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune eased months of diplomatic tension between Algiers and Paris. Speaking to France's BFM TV, Nunez described Sansal's release as "a glimmer of hope" and said President Emmanuel Macron had personally thanked Tebboune during a phone call. He added that France aimed to restart "a demanding but necessary dialogue" focused on security and cooperation.

Relations between the two countries had sharply deteriorated after France recognised Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara, a move Algeria opposed. The situation worsened after Sansal's arrest and other disputes over migration and repatriation. Tensions peaked earlier this year when an Algerian national—whom France had unsuccessfully sought to deport—was accused of carrying out a deadly knife attack in Mulhouse. The incident led French officials to reconsider migration and visa policies toward Algeria. Nunez said his upcoming visit would aim to reopen communication channels and address key issues, including security coordination and migration. "The tug-of-war strategy does not work," he said. "We need dialogue, not deadlock." Observers see Sansal's release and the possible ministerial visit as the first positive signs of improving ties between France and its former colony.

China's Foreign Ministry condemned Takaichi's remarks as an interference

China demands Japan retract remarks on Taiwan

BEIJING

China's Foreign Ministry on Thursday urged Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to withdraw what it called "egregious" remarks about Taiwan, warning that Japan must "bear all consequences" if she fails to do so. The demand follows Takaichi's statement in parliament last week suggesting that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be considered a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, potentially leading to a military response from Tokyo.

China's Foreign Ministry on Thursday demanded Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi retract "egregious" remarks about Taiwan, warning Japan would "bear all consequences" if it intervened militarily. Beijing condemned her comments as interference.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a press conference that Takaichi's comments represented "crude interference" in China's internal affairs and had caused "a heavy blow" to bilateral ties. "Should Japan dare to intervene militarily in the Taiwan Strait situation, it will constitute an act of aggression, and China will strike back decisively," Lin warned.

Beijing maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory and has not ruled out using force to bring the island under its control. Taiwan's government rejects China's claim, insisting that only its citizens have the right to decide their future.

Tensions have continued to rise, with Chinese state media escalating criticism of Takaichi. A social media post by an account linked to CCTV labelled her a "troublemaker" and warned she would "have to pay the price."

In Japan, anger has grown over inflammatory remarks made by China's Consul General in Osaka, Xue Jian, who posted that "the dirty head that sticks itself in must be cut off." Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi condemned the comment as "regrettable" and said Tokyo would urge Beijing to prevent the dispute from further damaging bilateral relations.

Russia warns Ukraine talks inevitable amid war

MOSCOW

The Kremlin has said that Ukraine will have to negotiate with Russia "sooner or later," warning that Kyiv's position in any talks will weaken with time. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia remains open to political and diplomatic discussions but would continue its military actions if peace efforts fail. He emphasized that Moscow's goal is to ensure the country's security for future generations.

Russian troops are currently trying to capture the city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine. Earlier this month, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed control of the village of Uspenivka in the Zaporizhzhia region. Moscow has repeatedly accused Ukraine of avoiding peace talks. However, Kyiv maintains that Russia's terms are unacceptable, saying they amount to surrender. Ukrainian leaders have insisted that any peace deal must include a full withdrawal of Russian forces from occupied territories.

Peskov said Ukraine's refusal to negotiate would only make its situation worse. "The Ukrainian side should know that sooner or later it will have to negotiate, but from a much worse position," he said.

B'desh to hold referendum with national elections

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Chief Advisor, Muhammad Yunus, announced that a national referendum on the July National Charter will be held alongside the country's parliamentary elections in the first half of February 2026. The decision, approved during an Advisor's Council meeting, marks a major step toward implementing the reform roadmap born out of the July 2024 mass uprising. In a televised address, Yunus said the referendum would allow citizens to vote on the July Charter, which proposes significant political and constitutional changes. These include forming a caretaker government during election periods, creating an independent Election Commission, and establishing a bicameral parliament with a 100-member upper house based on proportional representation.

The Charter also proposes 30 reform measures covering women's representation, parliamentary oversight, judicial independence, local governance, and limits on a Prime Minister's tenure. If approved, a Constitution Reform Council will be created from the newly elected parliament to finalize the amendments within 180 working days, followed by the establishment of the upper house within 30 days.

Yunus highlighted the interim government's achievements over the past 15 months, noting progress in strengthening the judiciary, fighting corruption, and improving the economy. Exports, reserves, and foreign investments have all shown growth during this period.

He called for unity among political parties that supported last year's uprising, urging them to avoid divisions that could harm Bangladesh's democratic transition. "The spirit that united the nation in 2024 must guide us again," Yunus said, expressing hope that the country will move toward a peaceful and festive election, entering what he described as "a new Bangladesh."

Truck crashes into market, two killed in Korea

SEOUL

Two people were killed and 18 others injured when a light truck crashed into a busy market in Bucheon, a city located about 20 kilometres west of Seoul, on Thursday. The truck sped through a narrow passage lined with market stalls for nearly 150 metres before coming to a stop, according to emergency officials and South Korean media reports.

A fire department official said two victims went into cardiac arrest and were later pronounced dead. CCTV footage broadcast by Korean television showed the blue truck suddenly accelerating through the crowded market, striking several stalls before crashing into a shop.

According to initial reports, the vehicle had reversed about 28 metres before surging forward uncontrollably. The driver, a man in his 60s, told police that the truck experienced a sudden burst of acceleration.

Marcos vows jail for graft scandal suspects

MANILA

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has vowed to jail those linked to a major corruption scandal involving government infrastructure projects, promising they will be behind bars before the end of the year. The scandal, which centers on substandard and allegedly fake flood-control projects, has sparked public outrage and mass protests across the country.

"They won't have a Merry Christmas," Marcos declared during a televised press conference as he displayed names of accused public works officials and construction executives under investigation by the country's anti-graft commission.

Earlier this year, the president formed a special commission to probe billions of pesos' worth of questionable flood-control projects, many of which were found to be poorly built or never completed. The issue resurfaced after recent typhoons caused widespread flooding, fueling anger among citizens and activists who accuse officials of stealing disaster funds.

The controversy has also shaken economic confidence, with growth in the third quarter falling to a four-year low of 4 percent. Infrastructure spending plunged 26.2 percent, its sharpest decline in nearly 14 years, partly due to tighter spending checks.

Marcos said the government will accelerate spending toward year's end to meet planned targets. So far, authorities have frozen 6.3 billion pesos ($108 million) in assets belonging to suspects, with plans to recover the funds for public use.

Framing the crackdown as part of a larger push for transparency, Marcos—whose late father was once accused of large-scale corruption—said his administration would not tolerate abuse of public money.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

4		8	3		7	2	9	
	7			4	2		8	5
9	3		6		5	4	7	
		5				8	6	
2	1	6		3	4		5	9
3				5	6	1		2
8		7	5		1	6		4
	9		4		8	5		7
	6		2	7		9	1	

2	6	9	4	7	8	1	5	3
4	3	1	2	9	5	8	6	7
7	5	8	6	1	3	9	4	2
8	9	3	5	6	7	2	1	4
5	1	7	3	4	2	6	9	8
6	2	4	9	8	1	3	7	5
3	4	6	7	2	9	5	8	1
9	8	5	1	3	4	7	2	6
1	7	2	8	5	6	4	3	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Afghanistan blames Pakistan as Turkey talks fail

KABUL

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has accused Pakistan of causing the collapse of recent peace talks in Turkey, calling Islamabad's demands "unrealistic and unreasonable." Speaking in Kabul, Muttaqi confirmed that the Afghan delegation had returned home after the third round of negotiations ended without progress.

He alleged that Pakistan repeatedly violated Afghanistan's sovereignty through airstrikes and border attacks, claiming Afghan civilians and markets were targeted. "Even the airspace of Kabul was violated, leaving us with no choice but to respond," Muttaqi said.

According to Afghan officials, Pakistan demanded Kabul guarantee that no security incidents occur within its borders — a condition Afghanistan rejected. "How can we be responsible for Pakistan's internal security?" Muttaqi questioned, accusing Islamabad of trying to shift blame for its internal failures.

He further alleged that Pakistan proposed relocating Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) fighters into Afghanistan, which he described as an attempt to "create chaos." Kabul also accused Pakistan of allowing ISIS militants to cross the border and of ignoring Afghan calls to stop its airspace violations.

The Taliban government said its delegation had attended all three rounds of talks "in good faith," but Pakistan "abandoned" discussions and refused basic Afghan demands to end air incursions and prevent ISIS movement.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid criticised Pakistan's handling of Afghan refugees, saying a "nuclear power is using strength against onions and tomatoes."

NATURE BOUND DIPLOMACY

India, Botswana strengthen ties through wildlife conservation move

GABORONE

In a major step toward strengthening India-Botswana cooperation in wildlife conservation, President Droupadi Murmu and Botswana's President Duma Gideon Boko witnessed the release of cheetahs into the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in southern Botswana. The animals were captured from the Ghanzi region and placed in a quarantine facility by experts from both nations.

The ceremony marked Botswana's gifting of eight cheetahs to India as part of the next phase of Project Cheetah, aimed at restoring the species in India's natural habitats. Sharing the news on X, the President's Secretariat described it as a new chapter in the friendship between the two nations.

During her visit, President Murmu met President Boko in Gaborone, where both leaders discussed expanding cooperation in trade, investment, renewable energy, agriculture, education, healthcare, defence, and digital technology. A key agreement was also signed to provide Botswana with easier access to affordable, high-quality Indian medicines.

President Murmu thanked the Botswana government and its people for their generous contribution to India's wildlife project. President Boko, in turn, praised India as the "mother of democracy" and recognized its steady role in supporting Botswana's development journey.

President Murmu arrived in Botswana on Tuesday for a State Visit, concluding her two-nation African tour. She was warmly received at the airport by President Boko and given a ceremonial welcome with a guard of honour, highlighting the deep respect and growing partnership between the two friendly nations.

QUICK READ

Indian equity indices close flat amid profit booking

Mumbai

The key domestic equity indices closed flat on Thursday, erasing early gains amid profit booking in IT and auto heavyweights, ahead of Bihar election results. Sensex ended the session at 84,478.67, up 12.16 points or 0.01 per cent. Continuing the previous day's rally, the 30-share index started trading higher at 84,525.89 against last session's closing of 84,466.51. However, the index traded volatile during the session and closed flat amid profit booking post the last three days ' rally. Nifty closed 25,879.15, up 3.35 points or 0.01 per cent.

India to stay fastest-growing major economy

New Delhi

India is expected to remain the fastest-growing economy among the G20 nations with a growth rate of 6.5 per cent through 2027, despite the Donald Trump administration's tariff hikes, according to Moody's latest 'Global Macro Outlook report for 2026-27'. The report states that the pace of India's growth will be supported by robust infrastructure investment, strong domestic consumer demand, and export diversification. Indian exporters, facing 50 per cent US tariffs on some products, have succeeded in redirecting exports, with overall exports climbed 6.75 per cent in September.

85% of Indian businesses see Saudi as desired hub

Mumbai

At least 85% of Indian businesses, the highest among surveyed markets, see Saudi Arabia as a more attractive destination for trade and investment amidst global uncertainties, a report showed on Thursday. Moreover, 78 per cent of Indian businesses are planning to increase investments in Saudi Arabia in the next six months – representing the highest level of commitment among any market outside the Middle East. Indian business leaders are showing a strong intent to increasing trade and investment with Saudi Arabia. This aligns with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan, which aims to build a resilient, stable economy with attractive growth opportunities.

Hyundai-India explore maritime collab under 'Amrit Kaal Vision'

HD Hyundai expressed a keen interest in leveraging its technological expertise and global experience to contribute to India's maritime growth

SEOUL

South Korea's leading shipbuilding conglomerate, HD Hyundai, announced on Thursday that its Chairman, Chung Ki-sun, held talks with India's Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, to discuss expanding cooperation in the shipbuilding and maritime industries.

The meeting took place in Seoul as part of India's ambitious Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 project, which aims to transform India into one of the world's top five shipbuilding nations. The initiative envisions expanding the country's fleet of commercial vessels from the current 1,500 to 2,500 over the next two decades. To achieve this,

the Indian government plans to invest around $24 billion, with an initial allocation of $8 billion announced in October to support new vessel construction and shipyard modernization.

During the discussions, both sides explored potential partnerships in advanced shipbuilding technologies, green maritime infrastructure, and sustainable energy use within the sector. HD Hyundai expressed a keen interest in leveraging its technological expertise and global experience to contribute to India's maritime growth.

HD Hyundai will be the best partner to help advance India's shipbuilding industry based on mutual trust, Chairman Chung Ki-sun said in an official statement. Minister Puri, leading the Indian delegation, emphasized that regular exchanges between the Indian government and HD Hyundai would help foster innovation, create skilled jobs, and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the broader maritime ecosystem.

The talks reflect India's growing focus on maritime development as part of its vision for economic self-reliance and global competitiveness, with South Korea emerging as a key strategic partner in this endeavor.

'Negative growth awaits Nepal amid political turmoil'

KATHMANDU

Nepal's economy is expected to decelerate sharply in the current fiscal year 2025–26 due to the lingering impact of September's violent protests and ensuing political instability, the World Bank said on Thursday in its Nepal Development Update: Reforms to Accelerate Public Investment.

According to the report, Nepal's economic growth is projected to fall to 2.1 per cent in FY 2025–26, down from 4.6% recorded in FY 2024–25. The slowdown reflects the widespread damage caused by Gen-Z–led protests earlier this year, which toppled the government of former Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli. The subsequent formation of a non-political transitional government led by Sushila Karki, tasked with conducting elections on March 5, 2026, has created additional uncertainty.

The September unrest claimed over 70 lives and resulted in the destruction of both public and private properties worth billions of Nepali rupees. Several government offices, private enterprises, and financial institutions were set ablaze during the protests, severely disrupting economic activity across major cities.

'Nepal's economic growth is projected to fall to 2.1 per cent in FY 2025–26, down from 4.6% recorded in FY 2024–25'.

The World Bank highlighted that the services sector, particularly tourism and insurance, will bear the brunt of the slowdown. The report noted a sharp decline in international tourist arrivals and the spillover effects of asset losses on the insurance industry.

Furthermore, the Bank cautioned that poverty reduction efforts have been adversely affected, with the poverty rate (measured at USD 4.2/day) expected to rise to 6.6 per cent in FY 2025–26 from 6.2 per cent earlier projected.

However, the Bank remains cautiously optimistic about recovery, projecting a rebound to 4.7 per cent growth in FY 2026–27 as reconstruction efforts gain traction. Finance Minister Rameshore Prasad Khanal said the government has introduced an Integrated Business Recovery Plan offering grants, tax incentives, and operational support to restore business confidence and accelerate economic revival.

TN set up AVGC-XR Centre to fast-track futuristic techs

CHENNAI

In a major move to accelerate its digital media and emerging technology ecosystem, the Tamil Nadu government, under the leadership of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has announced plans to establish the Viyan AVGC-XR Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Chennai.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT), aims to position the state as a national hub for animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality (AVGC-XR). ELCOT has issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) this week, inviting partnerships from industry players, academic institutions, and technology firms for the centre's development, operation, and long-term management.

Designed as a flagship project, the Viyan CoE seeks to

create a world-class environment that fosters innovation, supports content creation, and provides young professionals with future-ready skills in the fast-evolving AVGC-XR sector.

In its initial phase, the centre will operate from a leased facility spanning 12,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. in Chennai. It will feature co-working spaces, private studios for startups and MSMEs, and specialized labs for performance capture, 2D and 3D art, audio and foley services, and XR testing. Hardware rental facilities will give creators access to advanced production equipment, while community spaces and screening rooms will host workshops, networking events, and collaborations.

In the second phase, the project will expand to a one-lakh sq. ft. purpose-built campus capable of accommodating around 500 professionals. This state-of-the-art facility will house advanced studios for quality assurance, XR development, and digital prototyping, establishing an integrated ecosystem for creators, developers, and entrepreneurs.

The initiative reflects the Tamil Nadu government's vision to make Chennai a leading destination for digital innovation, creative industries, and immersive technology development in India.

SBI: Overhaul of core banking system by FY28

MUMBAI

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India is planning to compete the overhaul of its core banking system within the next two years, a senior official has said. The modernization is being carried out by the bank and its subsidiary SBI Payments Services, said the seniormost managing director of the bank Ashwini Kumar Tewari, who handles corporate banking and subsidiaries, in Singapore on Thursday. He said the overhaul involves transforming the bank's legacy systems through hollowing, microservices and modernization.w

Trump sends +ve signals on US-India relations

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has sent positive signals on strengthening US-India relations this week, raising fresh hopes that a bilateral trade agreement between the world's two largest democracies could be signed soon. Trump told reporters at the White House that his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were going great and that a visit to Delhi could take place next year.

Earlier this week, Trump said that he plans to lower tariffs imposed on India at some point indicating that a breakthrough in the trade talks could come soon. I think we're pretty close to doing a deal (with India) that's good for everybody, Trump said, in answer to a question from the media, at the ceremony for swearing-in of Sergio Gor as the new US Ambassador to India.

While some Indian officials have been optimistic over the India-US trade agreement be-

ing signed soon, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday that India would not compromise on the interests of farmers, dairy sector and workers in trade deals that it signs with other countries. We are working on a fair, equitable and balanced trade deal, he said.

The minister further stated that the timing of such deals would depend on mutual readiness. The trade deal can happen tomorrow, it can happen next month, it can happen next year... but as a government, we are preparing for any contingency, he added.

As per sources, Harsh Pant, a professor of international relations at King's College London, as saying that Trump's visit would signal a rebound in the relationship between Delhi and Washington.

Star Air raises Rs 150 cr in Series B round

MUMBAI

Star Air, the aviation arm of the Sanjay Ghodawat Group (SGG), said on Thursday that it has completed the first tranche of its Rs 350 crore Series B funding round, raising Rs 150 crore from a consortium of marquee investors including Micro labs Ltd, Deepak Agarwal of Bikaji foods and others. The airline further plans to raise an additional Rs 200 crore by FY26-27.

Star Air said that its first external fundraise will power the next phase of expansion with a goal to operate 50 aircraft by 2030.

The newly raised capital will be deployed to expand the airline's fleet and route network, strengthen NSOP (Non-Scheduled Operator Permit) operations and enhance its MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) capabilities.

'India's fin sector remains robust amid global shakes'

NEW DELHI

Global banks are expected to maintain a stable outlook in 2026 despite mounting political and economic uncertainties, according to a report released by S&P Global Ratings on Thursday.

The report noted that while geopolitical tensions and policy shifts could disrupt global markets, structural improvements and sound economic fundamentals are helping India's financial institutions remain resilient.

Banks are operating in volatile times when significant policy decisions and regional conflicts could disrupt financial markets and rapidly change the economic environment, said Emmanuel Volland, S&P Global Ratings credit analyst.

The agency forecasted that global bank credit losses will rise to $655 billion in 2026, marking a 7.5 per cent year-on-year increase. The bulk of these losses are expected to stem from the Asia-Pacific region, particularly due to tariff-related uncertainties affecting China's small and micro-enterprise lending and unsecured

consumer credit. However, the report emphasized that these losses remain manageable owing to strong profitability and stricter prudential frameworks introduced in recent years.

For India, S&P Global highlighted that while stress points have emerged in unsecured personal and microfinance loans, underwriting standards for secured retail loans remain robust, keeping delinquencies within manageable levels. It further stated that India's infrastructure spending, strong private consumption, and limited exposure to U.S. trade risks will continue to support its economic growth.

S&P Global also identified four key downside risks to global banking stability: escalating geopolitical tensions, stronger tariff spillovers, weaker regulatory oversight, and evolving threats from digitalisation,

India imposes anti-dumping duty on Vietnamese steel

MUMBAI

India has imposed an anti-dumping duty on hot-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel from Vietnam, for a period of five years, to protect domestic producers from the flood of cheap imports that are priced below their normal cost. The notification by the Department of Revenue, dated November 12, follows an investigation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which found that these products were being sold at prices below their normal price, causing material injury to the domestic industry.

The duty applies to hot-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel with a thickness of up to 25 mm and a width of up to 2100 mm, and is designed to ensure fair pricing and protect Indian producers. There is also a threat of further aggravated injury to the domestic industry, if anti-dumping duty is not imposed on import of subject goods from the subject country, the notification states.

QUICK COMMERCE BOOM

2-3 players to dominate India's QC market in top 40 cities

NEW DELHI

Like the e-commerce segment, where two or three players typically dominate the market in most countries, this concentration pattern has been extended to food delivery and quick commerce (QC) sector in India as well, where the top two or three firms are likely to control a major share of the market, a report has said.

The QC ecosystem in India is likely to follow a similar trajectory, with major players securing market share through aggressive growth, technological advancements, and operational effectiveness.

According to a Bernstein Research report, QC will dominate in top cities, while modern trade (MT) — retail supermarkets —will flourish in the next 400 cities. QC will dominate in the Top-40 cities, MT to flourish in the Next-400 cities and GT to lead the Last-4000 cities, the report noted.

At the same time, general trade (GT) -- kiranas and pop shops -- will remain the leader in the smaller cities, towns and villages. With rapidly evolving dynamics across city tiers, India's internet economy is entering a fresh phase of rapid growth. The report predicted that GT to lose ground to QC, e-commerce (EC), and MT; however, MT and EC may have healthy growth going ahead as well.

In India's top urban markets, quick commerce (QC) will dominate the retail channel, fuelled by consumer demand for immediacy, convenience, and efficient logistics networks. The report, however, emphasised that MT and EC still hold an advantage in areas such as product cataloguing and cost competitiveness. While MT retailers are focusing more on margins and deeper assortments, especially in semi-urban areas, QC and EC platforms are making significant investments in warehouse networks and logistics optimisation to cut costs.

Indian construction equipment sector revenue set to rise 6-8%

NEW DELHI

India's construction equipment sector's revenue is set to rise 6-8 per cent in current fiscal (FY26) driven by selective price hikes, firm export realisations and stable steel prices, a report said on Thursday. Strong overseas orders provide crucial support to this sector amid subdued domestic demand and higher equipment costs, according to the report from Crisil Ratings. Selective price hikes will partly offset higher compliance costs, said the ratings agency, adding that firm export realisations and stable steel prices will help mitigate pricing pressure from low-cost imports.

This will limit the contraction in operating margin to 11 per cent from around 12 per cent last fiscal and keep credit metrics stable across manufacturers, the report mentioned. India's construction equipment industry will continue to clock a volume growth of 2-4 per cent this fiscal and the next, the firm said.

Crisil's review of 17 leading manufacturers in the sector found that a 35% jump in exports in the first half of FY26 provided a key buffer against softer domestic demand.

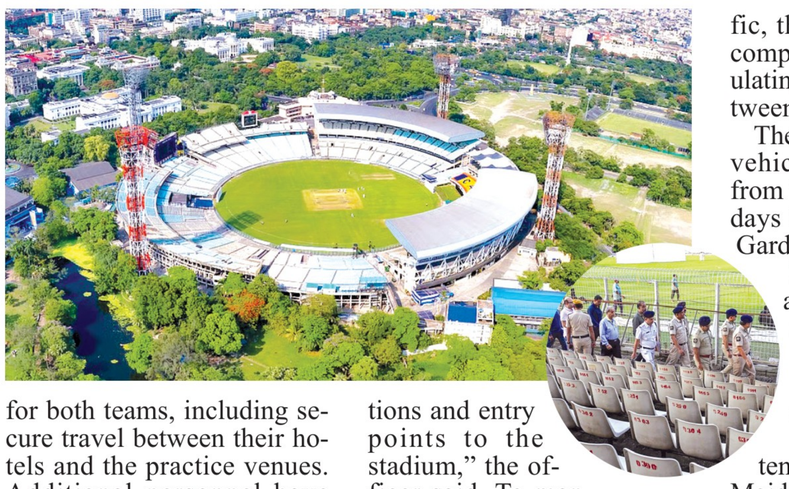
India-SA Test: Security Tightened, Traffic Curbs Imposed Around Eden Gardens

Authorities urged citizens to follow traffic rules and cooperate with police for safety

KOLKATA

With the India-South Africa Test match set to begin today, Kolkata Police have ramped up security across the city, especially around the iconic Eden Gardens Stadium and the adjoining Maidan area. The heightened measures will remain in force throughout the five-day encounter, officials confirmed.

A senior police officer said elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of players, officials, and spectators. "We have strengthened protection for both teams, including secure travel between their hotels and the practice venues. Additional personnel have been deployed at key intersections and entry points to the stadium," the officer said. To manage the expected surge in traffic, the police have issued a comprehensive advisory regulating vehicle movement between November 14 and 18.



The movement of all goods vehicles will be prohibited from 7 am to 7 pm on match days in and around the Eden Gardens zone.

Public transport routes and parking arrangements have also been adjusted to facilitate smoother flow and reduce congestion.

Patrolling will be intensified in and around the Maidan, with both uniformed and plainclothes personnel stationed to prevent any untoward incidents. Drone surveillance and CCTV monitoring will be used to maintain real-time oversight of crowd movement.

Police officials noted that the current traffic and security guidelines are subject to modification depending on live conditions during match days. With thousands of fans expected to throng Eden Gardens, authorities have urged citizens to cooperate with security personnel and follow traffic instructions to ensure a safe and enjoyable cricketing spectacle.

Important to Counter Bumrah, Says Former SA Captain Graeme Smith

MUMBAI

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith believes neutralizing Jasprit Bumrah's early threat will be key to the Proteas' chances in the upcoming Test series against India. Speaking ahead of the first Test at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Friday, Smith said both Bumrah and Kagiso Rabada could play decisive roles in shaping the contest. "The biggest challenge in the subcontinent is getting off to a solid start," Smith said on the sidelines of an SA20 India event. "Countering Bumrah up front is crucial for us, and similarly, Rabada will be a big threat to India's top order." Smith noted that the Eden Gardens pitch is likely to assist pacers early on before slowing down midway through the match, giving both fast bowlers a chance to make an impact. Rabada, who has taken 55 wickets against India in 14 Tests, will lead the South African pace attack. "Rabada sets the tone with the new ball. His ability to strike early will be vital for captain Temba Bavuma and the team," Smith said. Smith, who captained South Africa in 108 Tests, added that batters would need to step up to support their bowlers. "The Eden Gardens offers good value for runs, and a full stadium can lift any batter's confidence," he said.

Smith expects thrilling duel between Bumrah and Rabada in upcoming India-South Africa Test.

Echoing Smith's views, former Proteas great Hashim Amla stressed the importance of big first-innings scores.

Meanwhile, ex-skipper Faf du Plessis cautioned that while South Africa's world champion status adds confidence, maintaining momentum throughout the series will be crucial.

With the world's top pacers in action, fans can expect a gripping start to the high-voltage Test series.

ISSF World C'ships: Duestad Triumphs as Ind, China Miss Podium in 50m Rifle 3P

CHENNAI

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad broke the India-China dominance in Olympic shooting events at the ongoing ISSF World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, clinching her maiden world title in the women's 50m rifle three positions event. The result marked the first time in this edition that neither India nor China featured on the podium in an Olympic discipline.

Duestad, who displayed remarkable composure during the elimination stage, shot a total of 465.8 to secure gold, edging out Switzerland's teenager Emely Jaeggi, who took silver. Great Britain's Seonaid McIntosh, returning after a brief hiatus, completed the podium with bronze following a strong finish marked by consistent high 10s.

Until Tuesday, India and China had shared the spotlight at the championships, occupying the top two spots in the overall medal tally. Their shooters had dominated across events — with India's Samrat Rana winning the men's 10m air pistol crown and China's Yao Qianxun and Liu Yukun taking gold in women's 10m air pistol and men's 50m rifle 3P respectively.

However, the women's 50m rifle 3P final told a different story. Only one shooter from the two powerhouses — China's teenage prodigy Wang Zifei — reached the eight-shooter final, eventually finishing sixth. India's top contenders Ashi Chouksey, Anjum Moudgil, and Sift Kaur Samra placed 15th, 17th, and 48th respectively, missing qualification.

National rifle coach Deepali Deshpande said Sift had been recovering from minor back issues and was focusing on rehabilitation in recent months. Despite the setback, both teams are expected to bounce back in Thursday's women's 25m pistol event — the final Olympic discipline of the competition — as India and China aim to reassert their supremacy on the global stage.

Shubman Gill Hints at End of Mohammed Shami's India Career

KOLKATA

India captain Shubman Gill appeared to hint that veteran pacer Mohammed Shami may no longer feature in the national team's long-term plans, suggesting that the selectors were now focusing on younger bowlers. Speaking ahead of the Test series against South Africa, Gill praised Shami's quality but noted that India's current fast-bowling lineup left little room for the 35-year-old.

"A bowler of Shami Bhai's quality is not found easily, but you also have to consider the performances of others," Gill said. "You can't ignore someone like Akash Deep or Prasidh Krishna. We already have Siraj and Bumrah performing consistently. Sometimes, it's tough for senior players when they miss out."

Gill added that team selections were now guided more by future needs and playing conditions than by sentiment. "We plan based on the upcoming series and

venues. The selectors are better placed to comment on fitness and availability," he said.

The Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel recently drew criticism for omitting Shami from the squad for the South Africa Tests, despite his steady performances for Bengal in the ongoing Ranji Trophy.

Shami last represented India during the Champions Trophy in March and has been recovering from a heel injury that required surgery after the 2023 World Cup.

According to reports, selectors had reached out several times to assess Shami's fitness and even urged him to play for India A against the England Lions, but the pacer reportedly declined. His current bowling workload has been limited to short four-over spells, with average speeds dipping below 130 kmph.

With younger pacers Akash Deep and Prasidh Krishna emerging as consistent options alongside Bumrah and Siraj, Shami's return to the national setup appears increasingly uncertain.

He is, however, expected to play Bengal's Ranji Trophy clash against Assam from November 16.

'Need a Miracle': Musetti Braces for Alcaraz Challenge in ATP Finals Clash

TURIN

Italy's Lorenzo Musetti admitted he would "need a miracle" to overcome Carlos Alcaraz in their final group-stage encounter at the ATP Finals today. After securing a hard-fought victory over Alex de Minaur, the 23-year-old Italian now faces what he called his "toughest match" of the tournament against the world No. 2.

Musetti entered the Turin event as a late replacement for Novak Djokovic, who withdrew following his Athens ATP 250 title win. The Italian had stumbled in his opening match against Taylor Fritz but bounced back with a thrilling 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 win over De Minaur in two hours and 48 minutes. That result kept his semifinal hopes alive, though much now depends on his performance against Alcaraz.

"The victory over Alex gave me confidence," Musetti said. "I can still reach the semifinals, but a lot depends on how I play against Carlos.

'It's never easy to come back after injury, but I'm glad I have done it': Rishabh Pant

KOLKATA

India's vice-captain Rishabh Pant is set to don his whites again after a four-month break when India face South Africa in the first Test at Eden Gardens on Friday. The wicketkeeper-batter, who suffered a foot fracture during the Manchester Test against England in July, said he was "grateful and happy" to return after a challenging recovery period.

"After an injury, it is never easy to come back. But God has been kind and I'm very happy to be back," Pant said in a video released by the BCCI. "Every time I take the field, I try to be grateful. I thank God, my parents, and my family for supporting me through this phase."

Pant, who had made a remarkable return to international cricket last year following his life-threatening car accident, said his focus during rehabilitation was on maintaining a positive mindset rather than reacting to external speculation about his fitness.

"One thing I do is focus on controllables. Luck is something you can't manage, so I try not to think about it. You find happiness when you focus on things that truly matter to you," he explained.

GOA

Viswanathan Anand Hails Pranav V's Fighting Spirit despite WC Exit

India's teenage chess prodigy Pranav Venkatesh bowed out of the Chess World Cup after losing to Uzbekistan's GM Nodirbek Yakubboev in the fourth round. Playing with the black pieces, the 19-year-old struggled early and resigned after 38 moves. Despite the defeat, Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand lauded Pranav's courageous play and maturity. "Pranav had a very good run in the World Cup. He declined a possible repetition and tried to continue with his extra pawn, but it turned out badly," Anand wrote on X, praising his fighting spirit. Pranav had earlier beaten Aryan Tari and Titas Stremavicius in impressive fashion, marking one of his best international performances and a promising sign for Indian chess.

DENVER

Gabriel Landeskog Ends 1,347-Day Goal Drought, Shares Joy with His Son

Colorado Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog scored his first regular-season goal in 1,347 days during a 4-1 win over Anaheim , marking an emotional moment in his comeback from a chronic knee injury. The 32-year-old forward, who missed three full regular seasons before returning last spring, said he couldn't wait to tell his young son, Luke, about the long-awaited goal. "He keeps asking me, and I'm like, 'No, not yet,'" Landeskog said with a smile. Landeskog, playing limited minutes this season, has been praised for his leadership during the Avalanche's strong 11-1-5 start. "He's the voice of reason," said goaltender Scott Wedgewood.

GOA

Jose Martinez Alcantara Fires Back at Kramnik with Ice-Cold Response

Grandmaster Jose Martinez Alcantara, once accused by Vladimir Kramnik in his unfounded cheating crusade, silenced critics with brilliant form at the Chess World Cup 2025 in Goa. After wins over Isaak Huh, Velimir Ivic, and top seed Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Martinez offered a pointed response to Kramnik's claims."At the end of the day, chess is chess. I know how to play," he said, in a clear dig at Kramnik's obsession with online cheating statistics.American professor Kenneth Regan supported Martinez, refuting Kramnik's flawed "non-normalized" data and stating there is no evidence of large-scale cheating, as Martinez's strong over-the-board performances continue to disprove the former champion's claims.

Euro 2028 schedule: Venues and host nations revealed for UK-Ireland tournament

The joint-hosted tournament will run from June 9 to July 9, 2028, across nine iconic stadiums

LONDON

UEFA has confirmed the full schedule and venues for Euro 2028, set to be the biggest European Championship ever, hosted jointly by England, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

The month-long tournament will kick off on June 9, 2028, and conclude with the final at Wembley Stadium on July 9.

Wales could feature in the opening game at Cardiff's Principality Stadium, while England's first match is likely to take place at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium. The four host nations will not receive automatic qualification but will play group-stage matches at home if they qualify. Each host nation will showcase multiple venues: Wembley will stage eight games, including the semifinals and final, while Dublin's Aviva Stadium hosts seven. Cardiff and Glasgow will each stage six, with other matches in Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Liverpool and London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Euro 2028 will feature 24 teams and more than three million tickets, making it the largest edition in history. Northern Ireland was originally part of the bid but withdrew after redevelopment delays at Belfast's Casement Park. Football Association chair Debbie Hewitt called the announcement "a proud milestone," promising "a festival of everything we love about the game."

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said the tournament would celebrate the sport's origins in the UK and Ireland, uniting fans "in legendary stadiums filled with emotion."

The confirmed structure includes group matches across all venues, Round of 16 ties in Cardiff, Newcastle and Dublin, and semifinals and final at Wembley — setting the stage for an unforgettable summer of football.

Jyothi and Verma lead dominant campaign in Dhaka for India's compound archers

India shines with 4 medals, including 3 gold, at Asian Archery Ch'ships

DHAKA

India's compound archers produced a stellar performance at the Asian Archery Championships, clinching four medals — three gold and one silver — on Thursday, led by the experienced duo of V. Jyothi Surekha and Abhishek Verma.

Jyothi enjoyed a remarkable outing, winning both the women's individual and team gold medals, while Verma contributed to India's mixed team gold and men's team silver.

In the women's individual event, Jyothi displayed outstanding form, defeating Chinese Taipei's Chen Si-yu 149–143 in the semifinals before edging out her 17-year-old compatriot Prithika Pradeep 147–145 in an all-India final. The victory capped off India's dominance as both finalists came from the same contingent.

Earlier, the trio of Jyothi, Prithika, and Deepshikha combined brilliantly to beat Korea 236–234 in a thrilling women's team final. The Indian team maintained remarkable consistency, scoring 59 in each of the four ends.

In the men's team event, Verma, alongside Prathamesh Fuge and Sahil Jadhav, narrowly missed gold after going down 229–230 to Kazakhstan in a closely contested match. However, Verma bounced back in style, partnering with Deepshikha to secure a 153–151 win over Bangladesh in the mixed team final.

The results underscored India's growing strength in compound archery, with both seasoned names and rising stars making their mark on the continental stage.

With three gold medals — women's individual, women's team, and mixed team — and one silver in the men's team category, India reaffirmed its dominance ahead of next year's World Cup circuit.

Wood to undergo precautionary scan after hamstring soreness

PERTH

England fast bowler Mark Wood will have a precautionary scan on his hamstring after experiencing soreness on the opening day of England's Ashes warm-up match against the England Lions at Lilac Hill in Perth.

The 35-year-old, returning after nine months out following knee surgery, bowled eight overs across two sessions before leaving the field midway through his second spell. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Wood's absence was precautionary and confirmed he is expected to bowl again on Saturday once the scan results are assessed.

Wood's brief but promising spell saw him concede 29 runs, with his pace intact as England continue fine-tuning ahead of the first Ashes Test, beginning November 21 at Perth's Optus Stadium. His recovery and fitness are being closely managed, given his history of injuries and England's need for experienced fast bowlers on Australian pitches. Skipper Ben Stokes, also making a comeback after a long layoff, impressed with four wickets in the warm-up, helping restrict the Lions to 208-5 at tea on day one. Among his scalps was rising batting hopeful Jacob Bethell, dismissed before lunch. The warm-up fixture marks England's final preparation before the high-stakes Ashes series, which features five Tests across Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. The ECB remains confident that Wood's issue is minor, emphasizing the move is "purely precautionary" to ensure his readiness for the opener.

Watson joins KKR as asst coach for IPL 2026

KOLKATA

Former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has been appointed as the assistant coach of the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the franchise announced on Thursday.

Watson, one of the most accomplished T20 cricketers of his generation, brings a wealth of experience from both his playing and coaching careers. The 44-year-old, who transitioned into coaching after retiring in 2020, has held mentoring roles across several global leagues, including the Pakistan Super League and The Hundred. In a statement, Watson expressed excitement about joining the KKR setup. "I am eager to work closely with the coaching group and players to help bring another title to Kolkata," he said.

A two-time ICC World Cup winner (2007 and 2015), Watson represented Australia in 59 Tests, 190 ODIs, and 58 T20 Internationals, scoring over 10,000 international runs and taking more than 280 wickets across formats. In the IPL, Watson's career spanned 12 seasons (2008–2020), during which he played 145 matches, scored 3,874 runs, and registered four centuries. He was part of two championship-winning teams — Rajasthan Royals (2008) and Chennai Super Kings (2018) — and was also named Player of the Tournament in the inaugural season. Welcoming him, Venky Mysore, CEO of KKR, said: "We are thrilled to have Shane Watson join the KKR family.

Thrilling Grand Finale Awaits at 28th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship 2025

JK TYRE MOTORSPORT

COIMBATORE

The 28th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) is set for a spectacular grand finale at the Kari Motor Speedway on November 15–16, promising high-octane action, tight title battles, and star-studded appearances. Now in its 28th edition, India's longest-running motorsport championship will also feature American racing legend and three-time MotoGP World Champion Freddie Spencer, who will grace the event as a special guest.

The finale will see fierce competition across multiple categories — LGB Formula 4, JK Tyre Novice Cup, Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup, and the newly introduced JK Tyre Levitas Cup — along with the penultimate round of the FIA-certified Formula 4 Indian Championship, part of the Indian Racing Festival 2025.

In the LGB Formula 4, the country's premier single-seater category, Diljith TS (Dark Don Racing) leads the standings with 53 points, followed by Dhruvh Goswami (MSport Racing) on 45. The title race remains wide open heading into the final round.

The Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup will feature a Pro-Am showdown on powerful GT-R650s. Bengaluru's Anish Shetty leads the Professional class, while Bryan Nicholas (Puducherry) tops the Amateur standings.

The JK Tyre Levitas Cup, debuting this season with performance-tuned Maruti Suzuki Ignis cars, has produced tight battles, with Ashwin Pugalagiri and Balaji Raju tied at 32 points.

Meanwhile, in the JK Tyre Novice Cup, Abhijit Vadavalli (Momentum Motorsports) leads by just two points, ensuring a nail-biting finish as India's future racing stars vie for glory.

Rob Edwards Appointed Wolves Manager on Three-and-a-Half-Year Deal

WOLVERHAMPTON

Premier League strugglers Wolves have appointed Rob Edwards as their new head coach on a three-and-a-half-year contract, the club confirmed. The 42-year-old leaves Middlesbrough, where he had guided the team to second in the Championship table, to take charge at Molineux following Vitor Pereira's sacking earlier this month.

Edwards, returning for his fourth spell with Wolves after stints as a player, coach, and interim manager, faces the enormous task of reviving a side that has taken just two points from 11 league matches, leaving them bottom of the table and eight points from safety.

"I know Rob very well and have seen his growth in different jobs," said Wolves chairman Jeff Shi. "He knows the club, the fans, and the city, and he brings tactical awareness, leadership, and a clear identity to our team."

Middlesbrough had initially resisted Wolves' approach, but a reported £3 million compensation package paved the way for the move.

Edwards, who previously managed Luton Town in the Premier League, will be joined by assistant Harry Watling, continuing their successful partnership.

Shi described the appointment as "a new chapter" for the club, emphasizing that Edwards' philosophy and energy would help rebuild morale.

Edwards' first match in charge will be against Crystal Palace at home on Nov - 22.

NEW DELHI

Adjusting to Formats Will Be Gill's Biggest Test, Says Pujara

Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara believes Shubman Gill's biggest challenge as captain will be adapting swiftly between formats but expressed confidence in the youngster's maturity and focus.

"Shubman is still young and doesn't have a heavy workload, but mentally, switching between formats can be tough," Pujara said ahead of the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata. "He led in ODIs, played T20s, and now returns to red-ball cricket — that transition demands patience and temperament."Pujara also backed Dhruv Jurel's inclusion to strengthen the batting lineup and called the series crucial for Sai Sudharsan, who continues at No. 3.

LONDON

Raheem Sterling Confronts Burglars during Home Break-In; Family Safe

Chelsea winger Raheem Sterling confronted burglars who broke into his Berkshire home evening while his partner Paige Milian and their children were inside.

The intruders fled before stealing anything after being disturbed by the 30-year-old footballer, reports said. A spokesperson confirmed Sterling and his family were unharmed, though "deeply shaken" by the incident. "We are thankful that Raheem and his loved ones are all safe," the statement read. Sterling's home was also targeted in 2022, when valuables worth £300,000 were stolen, forcing him to leave the World Cup in Qatar early.

SYDNEY

Gauff, Fritz Lead U.S. Title Defence at United Cup

World No. 3 Coco Gauff and No. 6 Taylor Fritz will headline the United States' title defence at the United Cup mixed-team event in Australia, organisers announced Thursday. The defending champions will once again face strong competition from Iga Swiatek's Poland, who they narrowly defeated in January's final. The 2026 edition, scheduled from January 2–11 in Sydney and Perth, will feature 18 nations, with each tie comprising men's and women's singles and mixed doubles. Germany's Alexander Zverev, Japan's Naomi Osaka, and Britain's Emma Raducanu are among other top names confirmed for the tournament, which serves as a key warm-up to the Australian Open.

Crew wind-up Sudeep-starrer 'Mark' shooting

The much-anticipated film Mark, starring popular actor Kiccha Sudeep, has completed its shooting, bringing excitement to fans across the country. The movie's teaser, which recently broke records, has already generated massive buzz, and the latest update has only added to the anticipation.

The final phase of filming took place on Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru, where the team wrapped up the shoot with a fun celebration that included smashing pumpkins. With shooting now complete, the crew has moved on to post-production, focusing on editing, visual effects, and sound design to ensure a thrilling final product for audiences.

Mark brings together Sudeep and Vijay Kartikeya, whose earlier collaboration in the film Max won widespread appreciation. In this new venture, Sudeep reprises the role of a determined police officer, portraying Ajay Markande, promising high-octane action and gripping drama.

The film features cinematography by Shekhar Chandra and a musical score composed by Ajaneesh B. Loknath, which is expected to enhance the film's intense action sequences. Produced jointly by Satyajyothi Films and Kiccha Creations, Mark has been designed to appeal to both action enthusiasts and general audiences alike.

Excitement is building for the film's release, scheduled for December 25, coinciding with the Christmas festivities. Fans are eagerly awaiting the big-screen arrival of Sudeep's action-packed performance and the dynamic chemistry between the lead actors. With shooting completed and post-production underway, Mark is set to be a major holiday entertainer, promising thrills, drama, and unforgettable cinematic moments.

Excitement is building for the film's release, scheduled for December 25, coinciding with the Christmas festivities

Director *Sundar C* exits Rajinikanth film

In a surprising development, ace director Sundar C has stepped down from Superstar Rajinikanth's upcoming film, tentatively titled Thalaivar173. The project, produced by Kamal Haasan's Raaj Kamal Films International, had generated significant excitement among fans and industry insiders alike.

On Thursday, Sundar C issued a statement citing unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances as the reason for his decision to exit the prestigious project. He described the opportunity to work with Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan as a dream come true, expressing gratitude for the trust and guidance offered by the two stalwarts of Tamil cinema.

In his statement titled A Heartfelt Note to My Dearest Fans and Well-Wishers, Sundar C said he would always cherish the special moments shared with the legends and that their inspiration would continue to guide him in future projects. He also thanked fans for their support, apologising for any disappointment caused by his departure and promising to continue delivering entertaining films.

Sundar C, known as one of Tamil cinema's finest commercial directors and husband of actress-politician Khushbu, emphasised that he would still seek guidance from both Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan despite stepping back from the film. His announcement has left fans and the industry speculating on the future direction of Thalaivar173 and who might helm the project next.

'Newcomers 1979' poster out

Actor Chethan of 'Aa Dingalu' fame released the poster of the film 1979, which has been prepared by new talents, and wished the team all the best. Sportsman, Rajyotsava award winner Dr. B.M. Srinivas, Beeramanahalli has produced it under Manam Movie Makers in memory of his father. The story, screenplay, dialogues have been written and directed by Pushparaj. The tagline will be 'Untold Story'.

Ajju, Pranvi, Sujith, Amrutha, who appear in the lead roles, shared their experiences of acting in their youth and old age. The rest have been colored by Durga, Preeti, Taksharam, Niranjan, Dhanush etc. Music is by Jaswant Pasupuleti, cinematography by Chalaki Charan, editing by Vasanth, colorist by Deepak Kondur. The shooting has been done in Kolar, Theralli, and Yaragola.

Speaking on the occasion, the director said that an attempt has been made to show some elements of the fictional story based on true events that took place in West Bengal from 1904 to 1979 in a commercial form. Some characters have been created in the period drama story. It is told how a refugee community struggles to maintain their existence. How a revolution against oppression begins there, Pushparaj revealed.

'Koragajja' team hosts colorful audio launch gala

Karavali recently witnessed the vibrant audio launch of the Kannada film Koragajja, directed by Sudheer Atthavar. The event marked a major milestone as Zee Music acquired the audio rights for all 31 songs across multiple languages. The film is produced under the banners of Success Films and Trivikrama Cinemas.

The audio rights deal was notable because Zee Music had previously been reluctant to invest in Kannada film music. The team, which had kept prior deals secret, unveiled two cutouts of Zee Music at the Mangaluru event in front of more than 160 journalists, surprising attendees. Reports suggest the audio rights were sold for a substantial sum.

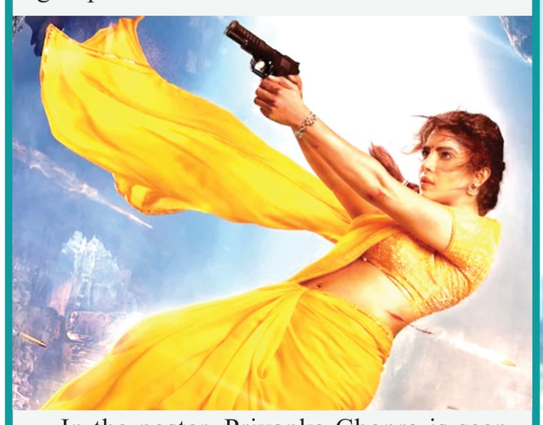
The event showcased Yakshagana-themed performances. Artists Bhavya and Shruti recreated classic songs on a gramophone, with colorful lights highlighting Koragajja's signature track Gaali Gandha. Another song, Guliga Guliga, enthralled the audience with its rich visuals. Music was composed by acclaimed South Indian musician Gopi Sundar, with lyrics by Sudheer Atthavar.

Actor Sandeep Soparker, who plays the fierce Guliga character and has worked in Hollywood, Bollywood, and French films, shared intense experiences from filming. Director Sudheer Atthavar patiently answered questions from over 170 journalists from across India for nearly two hours. He explained the shamanism theme, highlighting ritualistic practices in Karavali and Siberia involving trance, yellow face paint, and symbolic ornaments.

Producer Trivikrama praised the recently released 3D motion poster for garnering millions of views. He humorously compared the role of an executive producer to a vehicle's shock absorber. The event also began by honoring the couple Jai Jagdish and Vijayalakshmi, adding a personal touch to the grand celebration.

Priyanka Chopra reveals *'Mandakini'* poster

The highly anticipated film starring director S. S. Rajamouli and actor Mahesh Babu is generating excitement across India and beyond. Ahead of the Grand Globe Trotter event on November 15, a major update has raised curiosity among fans. Priyanka Chopra Jonas has revealed her role as Mandakini, giving audiences a first glimpse of her character.



In the poster, Priyanka Chopra is seen wearing a striking yellow saree while holding a gun, creating a powerful and intense look. The announcement has sparked widespread discussion online, with fans praising her strong screen presence. Malayalam actor Prithviraj Sukumaran will also appear in the film as 'Kumbh,' and his first look has already created a buzz, adding to the anticipation.

The Grand Globe Trotter event, set to take place at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad, promises to be a spectacular gathering. Organizers expect over 50,000 fans to attend, making it one of the largest live fan events in the Indian entertainment industry. Director S. S. Rajamouli is expected to unveil several more surprises during the event, heightening the excitement further.

The collaboration between Rajamouli and superstar Mahesh Babu has already created immense expectations among film enthusiasts. With Priyanka Chopra's stunning reveal and the presence of a star-studded cast, audiences are eagerly waiting for more updates. The film's mix of action, drama, and grandeur, combined with its massive scale of promotion, is expected to make it a landmark release in Indian cinema. Fans across the country are counting down the days to witness this cinematic spectacle in person.

Sean Diddy's 'Prison' release postponed to June

Rapper Sean 'Diddy' Combs' prison release has been extended by a month, now set for June 8, 2028, due to alleged violations of prison rules. Combs, serving time for two prostitution-related offences, was originally scheduled for release on May 8, 2028. He is currently held at Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institute in New Jersey.

The extension follows reports that Combs consumed homemade alcohol made from fermented sugar, Fanta soda, and apples during his first week in prison, raising concerns about compliance with rules. His spokesperson said Combs is focused on adjusting, working on himself, and improving daily while serving his sentence.

Kajal stuns fans with stunning beach photos

South Indian actress Kajal Aggarwal is currently enjoying a beach vacation in Australia with her family, sharing stunning photos in a red dress that have gone viral. Fans are praising her timeless beauty and her ability to balance a successful career with family life.

Kajal, one of the leading actresses in Tamil and Telugu cinema, continues to win hearts with her natural acting, expressive performances, and on-screen charm. On Instagram, she posted several pictures showing her smiling alongside her husband, enjoying the beach's soft light. Fans responded enthusiastically, calling her a role model for managing family and career while maintaining her elegance and charm.

The actress made her Tamil debut in 2007 with Palani and has starred in hit films like Mersal, Thuppakki, Vivegam, Maari, and Jilla. In Telugu cinema, she gained fame through blockbusters such as Magadheera, Darling, and Mr. Perfect. Her versatile performances and enduring popularity have cemented her status as a prominent figure in South Indian cinema. Kajal married Gautam Kitchlu in 2020 and became a mother in 2022. Despite family commitments, she continues to work on major projects, including I'm Game, The India Story, Ramayana, and Indian 3. She recently portrayed Parvathy in Kannappa, receiving acclaim for her powerful performance.

Fans are delighted to see her enjoying moments with family while maintaining her professional commitments. Kajal's vacation photos showcase her elegance, poise, and joyful spirit, reminding audiences why she remains one of the most admired actresses in Indian cinema.

'TOIFA 2025' celebrates women in films

The Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA) 2025 is set to take place in Mumbai on December 1, celebrating exceptional talent in both theatrical cinema and OTT content. Presented by M3M India, the event will unite TOIFA-OTT and TOIFA Theatrical Edition, honouring films and web originals released between January 1 and December 31, 2024.

Fans across the country can participate in the People's Choice Voting Awards, recognising their favourites and celebrating them on the grand TOIFA stage.

The advisory council guiding the event includes notable industry figures such as Siddharth Roy Kapur, Guneet Monga Kapoor, Nikkhil Advani, Shoojit Sircar, Rajkumar Hirani, Sameer Nair, Sonu Nigam, Ajay-Atul, Raveena Tandon, Kabir Khan, and Madhureeta Mukherjee.

The TOIFA Academy conducts a multi-layered selection process involving members from IFTPC, IMPPA, IPRS, IFTDA, the advisory council, and an expert screening jury, ensuring transparency and credibility in recognising outstanding work.

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